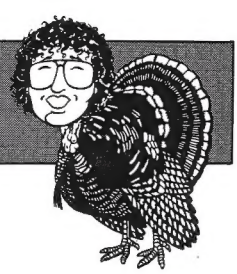
MARVEL
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWSMAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE®
CBG FAN AWARDS
WINNER
FAVORITE PUBLICATION ABOUT COMICS
84
JAN
ONLY 75¢
INSIDE REPORT ON JOHN BYRNE'S
NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!
ALSO: ROBOCOP'S BACK AND MARVEL'S GOT HIM!
PLUS:
COVERAGE OF THE
WOLVERINE
SPECIAL BY
SIMONSON AND MIGNOLA!

STAN LEE PRESENTS MARVEL AGE

SALICRUP'S SECTION



First off, a slightly overdue thank you to everyone who voted MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE the favorite publication about comics in the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE fan awards. It's greatly appreciated, as you can tell by our plastering the award on our covers, and it really gave your hard-working MARVEL AGE crew a boost. Congratulations also to **Denny O'Neil**, winner of the favorite editor award. Yours truly was pleased to go from seventh place all the way up to fourth, but if only four more of you voted for me, I would've beaten third-place finisher, our own **Remarkable Mark Gruenwald**. Oh, well, you can't win 'em all.

And speaking of winning, it's about time we announced the winner of the very first No-Contest. We asked you to come up with a lil'tin' limerick about either our Marvel cast of characters or one of our creative superstars, so without any further ado, the winner is **Greg Melton** and here's the winning entry:

There once was a man named **Bruce Banner**,
Who had a peculiar manner.
When at night, the moon rises,
His pants shrink 30 sizes,
And his skin seems just a wee bit tanner.

Honorable mention goes to **Bill Banks** for the following:

A colorful fellow named **Logan**,
Is fond of repeating this slogan.
"I'm the best that there is,
In the butt-kicking biz,
Well, that is, outside of **Hulk Hogan**."

Other entries of note include this one from **Jason Greenly:**

Brother Voodoo used to be cool,
A guy who couldn't drool.
Then he met **Fred**,
Now he's as good as dead.
Yes, **Hembeck** made him a fool!

Then there's this one from **Chas Naylor:**

There's a dude who's real mean,
Whose razor-sharp nails always gleam.
He says "What's up, Bub?"
As he drinks at the pub.
This X-Man's name is **Wolverine**.

Finally, if the assistant editor of this magazine, **"Big" Barry Dutter**, had his way, the winning entry would have been this one from **Greg Abbott**:

Tony Stark is a man with a mission,
Big business is his life-long ambition.
But if business gets slow,
Iron Man can just go,
And blast all the competition!

Now wasn't that buckets of fun? Be here next month for our big, scintillating second No-Contest!

—Jim Salicrup

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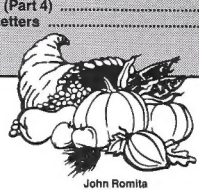

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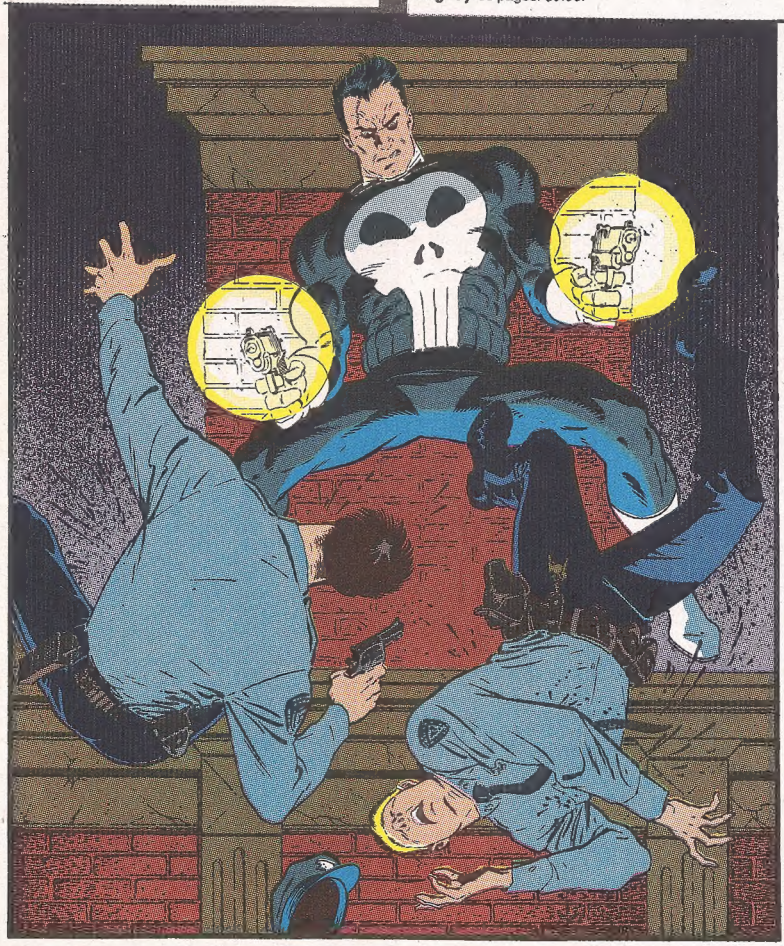
MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in December.

Titles Shipping December 5
On Sale December 26

☐ **THE AGENT** Graphic Novel—His name is **Rick Mason**. He's a freelance intelligence operative—and the son of the **Terrible Tinkerer**. He always works for the highest bidder, and this time, the biggest spender is **Nick Fury**. The mission is to topple a government controlled by drug-running super villains. It's a tale of action that'll have you on the edge of your seat! Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **John Ridgway**. 80 pages. $9.95.



☐ **DAREDEVIL** #277—A disease that is robbing a woman of her life forces **Matt Murdock** and **Daredevil** to face some hard facts about life, death, and love in the most off-beat story you'll see this month! Written by **Ann Nocenti**, guest-penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #61—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! "With too much power com es too much responsibility—I quit!" exclaims **Spider-Man** after suffering the hatred of a united New York society. But when the **Wizard** sends **Dragon Man** after **Spidey**, the web-spinner and society find themselves forced to re-think their decisions. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #258—It's the explosive climax of the **Mandarin** trilogy! It's **Wolverine** against the **Mandarin**! Reserve your copy *now*! Written by **Chris Claremont**, guest-penciled by **Jim Lee**, guest-inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK** #12—A major movie company is making a film of the **She-Hulk's** life—and on-screen death! "She-Hulk: the Movie" is written by **Peter David**, and drawn by **Steve Leialoha** and **Trina Robbins**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #7—Re-presenting from THE PUNISHER #s 8 and 9, the **Punisher**'s brutal war against corrupt stock brokers. Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **WOLVERINE SPECIAL** #1—Someone is out to destroy the Savage Land! **Wolverine** pulls out all stops to prevent this second annihilation. But wait'll you see who he has to fight! Written by **Walter Simonson**, penciled by **Mike Mignola**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. A Marvel Graphic Album. 48 pages. $4.50.

☐ **CRITICAL MASS** #2—Two Shadowline Saga stories!

St. George discovers the fate of the previous knight of **St. George** as the diabolical **Shreck** closes for the kill. Meanwhile, the Abbot of the Order of St. George prepares the armor he'll need to kill **Dr. Zero**! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Kyle Baker**.

Dr. Zero teams up with a ruthless KGB agent to discover why Europe's top nuclear scientists are all dying, unaware that those deaths are a part of **Henry Clerk**'s plan to turn the United States into a nuclear wasteland! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Mike Manley**. An Epic Graphic Album Limited Series. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

☐ **OPEN SPACE** #2—Marvel's shared-universe science-fiction anthology series written by award-winning science-fiction writers!

A mercenary peacekeeping force takes on interstellar piracy—and uncovers corporate treachery. "The Armada Operation" is written by **S.N. Lewitt**, penciled by **Peter Ledger**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**.

A mineral survey team encounters a strange form of alien life, and causes the asking of some very disturbing questions. "Bioshpere" is written by **F. Paul Wilson** and drawn by **John Ridgway.**

A New York City cop has to find a way to stop distribution of a new, extraterrestrial drug that isn't even illegal yet. "Bottom Line" is written by **Lawrence Watt-Evans,** penciled by **Tom Grummett,** and inked by **Art Viscardi**.

A secretary uncovers a corporate scandal and risks her life to expose it. "Policy" is written by **Charles deLint** and drawn by **Ray Lago.** A Marvel Graphic Album series. 64 pages. Direct sales only. $4.95.

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #55—An Acts of Vengeance saga! **Magneto** has come for his daughter, the **Scarlet Witch**. And what stuns the **West Coast Avengers** is that **Wanda** *wants* to go with him! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Paul Ryan**. $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #367—Two Acts of Vengeance stories!

The Core alliance of super villains is destroyed when **Magneto** attacks the **Red Skull**! Wait'll you see the reason why—and the side **Cap** chooses to help! Written by **Mark Gruenwald,** penciled by **Kieron Dwyer,** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.**

Plus: the **Cobra**'s desperate battle against **Mr. Hyde** takes an astonishing turn! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Don Hudson**. $1.00.

Titles Shipping December 12 On Sale January 2

ALF #26—Hard times at the **Tanner** household make **ALF** decide to get a job to pay his way. The result is an Alien Life Form-style disaster! Written by **Michael Gallagher,** penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" x 11" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" x 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a 6⅝" x 10" high quality, square-bound edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #29—Two tales of **Avengers** on their own! Written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Roy Richardson**.

Plus: the Acts of Vengeance may be over, but try telling that to the **Wizard** and **Klaw** as they take on **Iron Man**! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Dwayne Turner**, and inked by **Chris Ivy**.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #21—**Wolverine** is really in a trap, now! On one side is the horrifying **Geist** and the brutally transformed **Roughouse**. On the other is the slashing **Tiger Shark**! How's **Wolverine** going to get out of this? Written by **Archie Goodwin**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Klaus Janson.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #329—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in *and* the final chapter in the "Super-Spidey" saga! The Force behind the Acts of Vengeance makes a final attempt to salvage the plan by merging three of Sebastian Shaw's mutant-hunting robots into one awesome **Tri-Sentinel** and has ordered it to destroy a nuclear power plant! Meanwhile, **Spider-Man** discovers the truth about his new powers and that he must push them to the limit in order to stop the **Tri-Sentinel**. Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Erik Larsen**, and inked by **Al Gordon**. #1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #62—**Groo** does something stupid, *really* stupid! Even for **Groo**, this one takes the cake! We dare say no more except that it's written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés** with something or other done by **Mark Evanier.** An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #44—You've heard of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, right? Well, **Heathcliff**'s about to encounter the Pied Piper of Westfinster! What happens next is sheer catastrophe! Written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #86—An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! The **Vulture** attempts a jailbreak. Are the **New Mutants** helping him? Written by **Louise Simonson,** penciled by **Rob Liefeld,** and inked by **Al Milgrom.** $1.00.

☐ **THE Nth MAN** #9—**Alfie** is the world's most powerful mutant. And to make sure that his enemy, the **Nth Man** knows it, he zaps both the **Nth Man** and **Colonel Novikova** into a video universe where not even death is an escape! "Level: 1, Extra Lives: 0" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner,** and inked by **Fred Fredericks.** $1.00.

☐ **QUASAR** #7—**Terminus** has risen from the center of the Earth! Will **Quasar** and the cosmic-powered **Spider-Man** have sufficient power to stop the world-ravager from destroying Earth? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mike Manley**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #43—**Wolverine, Wonder Man, Iron Man,** and **Siryn** in four action-packed adventures!

WOLVERINE Part VI—**Wolverine** versus the **Black Shadow** in the wildest battle yet! Written by **Marv Wolfman** and drawn by **John Buscema.**

WONDER MAN Part VI—The **Enchantress** orders **Wonder Man** to tear the **Beast** apart! And wait'll you see what happens to **Iron Man** and the **Wasp**! Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares,** inked by **José Marzan.**

And complete in this issue:

A computer virus has shut down all of **Iron Man**'s armor's weapons systems. and what's worse is he's under attack by a high-tech squad of killer robots! Written by **Ed Simmons,** penciled by **Mark Bagley,** and inked by **Keith Williams.**

Siryn versus the Irish government. You'll flip when you discover why! Written by **Scott Lobdell** and drawn by **Larry Stroman.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #81—What plans do the **Dark Elves** have for **Northstar**? One sure bet is that **Northstar** won't survive them! **Alpha Flight** embarks to Asgard on a desperate mission to rescue **Northstar** in the first part of the two-part saga, "Quest for Northstar." Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **John Calimee**, and inked by **Mike Manley.** Mando Ofset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SLEEZE BROTHERS** #6—Intergalactic peace is finally possible—and the **Sleeze Brothers** hold the key, er, egg! Boy, are the galaxies in trouble now! "The Malteeze Egg" is written by **Jon Carnell**, penciled by **Andy Lanning**, and inked by **Stephen Baskerville**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.75.

☐ **INTERFACE** #2—The dread **Inner Circle** has discovered the true identities of the **ESPers**. It's a discovery that has fatal consequences! Written by **James D. Hudnall** and illustrated by **Paul Johnson**. An Epic comic. Hudson Offset paper. $1.95.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #170—Fabulous wealth, intrigue, jealousy and betrayal make this one of the most gripping **Conan** stories of the season. **Conan** and **Valeria** seek a mountain-sized emerald in the arctic. **Red Sonja** agrees to assassinate "a black-haired Cimmerian." And **Valeria** reveals feelings for **Conan** not even she dared voice when **Red Sonja** crosses their paths in "Emerald Lust". Written by **Chuck Dixon** and drawn by **Gary Kwapisz**

Plus: **Solomon Kane** becomes a bodyguard. But not even he suspects the depth of danger stalking his young charge. "Christian Burial" is written by **John Arcudi**, penciled by **Steve Carr**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.25.

☐ **ELECTRIC UNDERTOW** #4—Sometimes the good guys lose and lose *big*! **Strikeforce: Morituri**, their loss against the alien New Ones means the devastation of all mankind! "The Attack" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Carlos Garzón**. A Marvel Graphic Album Limited Series. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR SPECIAL** #2—A British Royal is getting married! **Excalibur** are among the guests! Wait'll you see who crashes the bash! We'll give you a hint: **Mojo** and the **X-Babies**! It's a wild and wacky tale written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Art Adams**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. A Marvel Graphic Album. 48 pages. $4.50.

☐ **THOR** Trade Paperback—It was acclaimed as one of the greatest **Thor** adventures when it first appeared. And now the epic from THOR #s 337-340, which introduced **Beta Ray Bill** and featured the unforgettable showdown with **Surtur** the **Fire Demon**, is re-presented in one stunning volume! Written and drawn by **Walter Simonson**. 96 pages. $8.95.

Titles Shipping December 19 On Sale January 9

☐ **MARVEL AGE** #85—It's our annual Christmas issue featuring a look at Marvelous Marvel gift items for all you late shoppers! Plus an exclusive preview—with photos—of the Captain America movie! A behind-the-scenes peek at **GROO THE WANDERER! Stan's Soapbox! Hembeck's Page!** And much much more!

☐ **AVENGERS** #314—**Nebula** finds a weapon powerful enough to cause the end of the universe! And the **Avengers** discover that that's the good news! Written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #229—It's the bloodthirsty (literally!) conclusion to "Red Eyes!" **Conan**'s battle against the tribe of albino cannibals is one of the most brutal **Conan** tales of the year! Written by **Gerry Conway**and penciled by **José Delbo**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #97—**Scarlet** is in a coma. **Snake-Eyes** is looking for trouble and is met by some unexpected and not welcome old friends. "What Goes Around Comes Around" is written by **Larry Hama**, guest-penciled by **Geoff Isherwood**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #366—It's "Countdown Part 3!" The **Hulk** still hasn't got an antidote for the poison in him. To make matters worse, the **Leader** and the **Gamma Gang** are attacking! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Jeff Purves**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #234Re-presenting from MARVEL TEAM-UP #4 another tale of mutant-non-mutant match-ups. **Professor X** sends the **X-Men** to bring **Spider-Man** in for questioning because he is wanted in connection with the disappearance of **Dr. Hans Jorgenson**, who was actually kidnaped by **Morbius**. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Gil Kane**, and inked by **Steve Mitchell**. Plus: the long-awaited conclusion of "Spider-Ham and the Cult of Dolts" written by **Danny Fingeroth**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Joe Albelo**. $1.00.

☐ **POLICE ACADEMY** #6—It's the scariest adventure the misfit gang from the **Police Academy** has ever had! They get caught in the middle of a war between a castle owner and the European moarchs who used to live in it. Watch out for the flying buttresses, arrows cannon shots, and pizzas in "A Hard Knight's Day" written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #30—The sanctity of the confessional is violated and a whole lot more in the most unusual **Punisher** story yet! Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Bill Reinhold**, and inked by **Mark Farmer**. $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #34—**Jim Starlin** debuts as the new regular scripter! And his first story features. . .the return of **Thanos**! Penciled by **Ron Lim** and inked by **Tom Christopher**. $1.00.

☐ **WHAT IF . . . ?** #10—What if the **Punisher**'s family had not been slain by mobsters in Central Park? This tale of alternate reality is a gripping revelation of the **Punisher**'s true nature! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Rik Levins**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. Cover drawn by **Mike Zeck**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #19—If you think Madripoor is a dangerous island, wait'll you see the Madripoor *planet*! It's an extra-dimensional visit **Excalibur** may not survive! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SHIELD** #8—World War III could happen at any second—**Leviathan** has escaped the Vault! Guest-written by **Dan Chichester**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #49—An American Indian has discovered a way to use magic to alter history! How can **Doctor Strange** stop him? Guest-starring **Nick Fury** and **Dum Dum Dugan**. "Strange on the Range" is written and drawn bay **Alan Weiss**. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

☐ **THE DESTROYER** #5—Middle-eastern terrorists possess an atomic bomb! And they're going to explode it in the United States. **Remo** and **Chiun** must stop them—but first they have to find the terrorists! Written by **Will Murray** and penciled by **Lee Weeks**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

Titles Shipping December 26
On Sale January 16

☐ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #15 — An Acts of Vengeance tie-in! Neo-nazis have kidnaped **Mary Jane Watson-Parker** and over half the Daily Bugle staff. And it's anybody's guess how many of the hostages and neo-nazis will survive the bloody climax! Written by **Carl Potts**, guest-penciled by **David Ross**, and inked by **Russ Heath**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **DAMAGE CONTROL II Limited Series** #4—the conclusion of the Limited Series and of Acts of Vengeance! The battle between the super heroes and super villains is nothing compared to the battle **Mrs. Hoag** and **Albert Cleary** wage to take **Damage Control** away from its new owners! Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Ernie Colón**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

☐ **IRON MAN** #253 — **Iron Man** rockets into space to salvage an invaluable Stark Enterprises satellite. But there's trouble inside that gigantic satellite—big trouble! Written and inked by **Bob Layton** and penciled by **John Romita Jr.** $1.00.

☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #161—**Hammerhead** wants **Tombstone** to work for his organization. But **Tombstone** still has the problem of **Joe Robertson** to deal with. To solve the problem, Hammerhead hires the transformed Hobgoblin to slay Joe Robertson. How can **Spidey**, now without his super-enhanced powers, stop the demonically-powered **Hobgoblin**? Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #63—In Part II of the "Matrix Quest" saga, the **Autobots Backstreet, Override**, and **Dogfight** find themselves bushwacked on a Wild West world by the **Decepticons**! Written by **Simon Furman** and penciled by **Geoff Senior**. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #51—**X-Factor** returns to Earth! But the homecoming could prove fatal because waiting for them are **Apocalypse** and **Caliban**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Paul Smith**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #44—**Kitty Pryde** wants to become a member of the **X-Men**! It's a decision she may quickly come to regret in the classic tale re-presented from X-MEN #138. Written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus an all-new tale featuring **Rogue**. What happened the day **Rogue**'s mutant power manifested itself. Now the horrifying story can be told! Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**. $1.25.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #44 — **Wolverine, Wonder Man, Dr. Strange,** and the **Puma** in four new stories!

WOLVERINE Part VII—The battle between **Wolverine** and the **Black Shadow** continues! Written by **Marv Wolfman** and drawn by **John Buscema**.

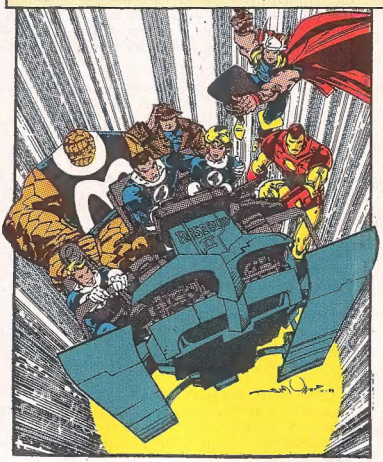
WONDER MAN Part VII—The **Enchantress** uses **Wonder Man** to defeat the **Avengers**! Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **José Marzan**.

Plus complete in this issue:

Dr. Strange orders his apprentice, **Rintrah**, to clean his **Sanctum Sanctorum**. That's when the trouble begins! Written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **Dave Simons**.

Puma finds himself battling an old gold miner—a person who is much more than he seems! Written by **Dan Mishkin** and penciled by **Gavin Curtis**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #337—You've thrilled to his writing, now **Walter Simonson** debuts as the penciler and inker of the FANTASTIC FOUR! Remember the Time Bubble that bedeviled **Thor** and gave the **Avengers** so much trouble? Well, now it's the **Fantastic Four**'s turn! $1.00.



☐ **THOR** #414—**Ulik** has been one of **Thor**'s toughest enemies. Now **Ulik**'s even stronger! What that means is that you get to witness the most brutal battle of the month right here! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. Plus in Tales of Asgard, **Leir** kidnaps the **Lady Sif**. And boy does he pay for *that* mistake! Written by **Tom DeFalco**. $1.00.

☐ **CLOAK & DAGGER** #10—The **X-Men** are dead! Long live the **X-Force**! **Cloak** and **Dagger** discover that the members of this team, **Storm, Rogue, Colossus, Havok**, and **Wolverine** are exploiting the names of the originals for a very special reason! Written by **Terry Austin** and drawn by **Mike Vosburg**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

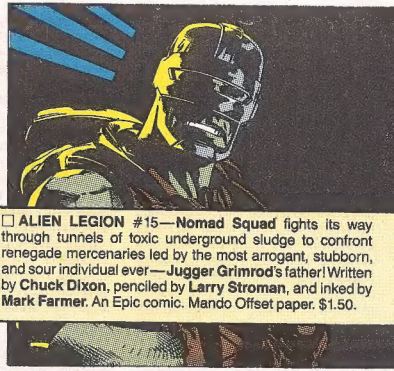
☐ **DR. STRANGE** #14—**Dr. Strange** makes a horrifying discovery. His spell eliminating vampires has been canceled! And what's worse, one of the new vampires out for his blood is his own brother! Part I of a horrific four-part saga. Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas** and drawn by **Jackson Guice**. Plus in Tales of the Vishanti, the final chapter in the Darkhold book saga! Written by **Roy Thomas** and **RJM L'officier**. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #11—**Moon Knight** versus the new **Arsenal** and his mercenary force! A blockbuster! Written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Sal Velluto**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #42—**Ice**'s disgust over what's happening in Vietnam sets the stage for one of the most unusual, poignant 'NAM tales yet! In a war filled with so many villains, **Ice** needs not just a hero—he needs a super hero, and lots of 'em! So enter **Iron Man, Thor**, and **Captain America**! Written by **Doug Isherwood**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #35—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #32, "The Ghouls of Yanaidar" written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **John Buscema**. Plus, re-presenting the first installment of the 1979 **Conan** syndicated comic strip! Written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **John Buscema**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **AKIRA** #16 —At last! The awesome secret of **Akira**'s power is revealed! Written and drawn by **Katsuhiro Otomo**, English language translation by **Jo Duffy**, and computerized coloring by **Steve Oliff**. An Epic Graphic Album series. 64 pages. $3.50.



☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #15—**Nomad Squad** fights its way through tunnels of toxic underground sludge to confront renegade mercenaries led by the most arrogant, stubborn, and sour individual ever—**Jugger Grimrod**'s father! Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Mark Farmer**. An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

ALIEN LEGION™ and ©1989 by Carl Potts

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

Apocalypse—WOLVERINE SPECIAL #1, X-FACTOR #51
Arsenal—MOON KNIGHT #11
Bayside Butcher—THE PUNISHER #30
Black Metal—AGENT Graphic Novel
Black Shadow—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #43 and #44
Bushman—MOON KNIGHT #11
Caliban—X-FACTOR #51
Cobra—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Controller—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Coven—SHIELD #8
Crossbones—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Death—SILVER SURFER #34
Dragon Man—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #61
Enchantress—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #43 and #44
Gamma Gang—THE INCREDIBLE HULK #366
Geist—WOLVERINE #21
Hammerhead—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #161
Hobgoblin—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #161
Mr. Hyde—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Kingpin—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #61, AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #2
Kinsmen—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #43
Klaw—AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #29
Krang—SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #12
Leader—INCREDIBLE HULK #366
Leir—THOR #414
Leviathon—SHIELD #8
Loki—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329
Madcap—AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #29
Magneto—AVENGERS WEST COAST #55, CAPTAIN AMERICA #367, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #61
Mandarin—X-MEN #258
Mojo—EXCALIBUR SPECIAL #2
Morbius—MARVEL TALES #234, DR. STRANGE #14
Mystique—CLASSIC X-MEN #44
Nebula—AVENGERS #314
Noise—AGENT Graphic Novel
Orca—SHE-HULK #12
Quota—AGENT Graphic Novel
Red Skull—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Roughouse—WOLVERINE #21
Serpent Society—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Shaw, Sebastian—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329
Slasher—PUNISHER MAGAZINE #7
Sleeper—CAPTAIN AMERICA #367
Stealth—AGENT Graphic Novel
Terminus—QUASAR #7
Terrible Tinkerer—AGENT Graphic Novel
Thanos—SILVER SURFER #34
Tiger Shark—WOLVERINE #21
Tombstone—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #161
Tri-Sentinel—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #329
Ulik—THOR #414
Vulture—NEW MUTANTS #86
Wizard—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #61, AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #29
X-Force—CLOAK AND DAGGER #10
Zapper—AGENT Graphic Novel

NEWSWATCH

ENGAGING EXCERPTS EXAMINING EXERCISE, ETCHINGS, AND EDIFYING ENTERTAINMENT

ITEM: By now, most dyed-in-the-wool Marvelites must be used to the sight of Marvel heroes running all over Manhattan. But what about the sight of Marvel *staffers* doing it?

Every year, the fiduciary folks at Manufacturers Hanover sponsor a series of 3½-miles marathons, better known as the Manufacturers Corporate Challenges. And with the Summer season over, we figure it's about time to salute the runners who upheld the honor of Mighty Marvel this past May and June. So let's hear it for Bullpeners **Ed Weggener, Keith Williams, Harry Candelario,** and **Vince Evans,** colorist **Janet Jackson**, business types **Barry Kaplan, Janet Pezzuto, Evelyn Stein, Karen Corbo**, and **Danny Gonzales**, Marvel U.K. editor **Richard Starkings**, American editors **Danny Fingeroth, Don Daley, Mark Gruenwald, Glenn Herdling, Lisa Trusiani, Laura Hitchcock,** and **Rob Tokar**, and MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's own Supreme Marvel Zombie, **Jim Salicrup**! And let's not forget the guy who took the time and trouble to organize the Marvel team in the first place—special products editor **Bob Budiansky**!

Congrats to one and all! When you get back to the clubhouse, the next round of Gatorade's on us.

ITEM: Who says that people today don't recognize a good thing when they see it? Thanks to the success of our many Marvel Press posters, the guys and gals over at One-Stop Posters have decided to start marketing them to a wide range of specialty and mass-merchandising outlets, such as record stores, poster shops, and maybe even your friendly neighborhood department store!

One-Stop is kicking off its program with twenty-five of our most popular past efforts, including all four **Punisher** posters by **Mike Zeck** and **Phil Zimmelman** and, of course, one or two relaxing, pastoral images of Wolverine. The posters will be sold through One-Stop approximately six to nine months after they hit your local comics specialty shop, so if you missed any of them the first time around, now's your chance to catch up! Better act fast; you've been warned.

ITEM: When the *New York Times* wants information, they know enough to go right to the source. So this past October, when they wanted to find sources of inexpensive but fine cultural entertainment, they asked the opinions of several prominent, bright, and underpaid New Yorkers. And included among them was none other than assistant editor/POWER PACK scripter **Dwayne McDuffie**! Dwayne suggested catching a dress rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic or heading over to the public library for a film or reading. We can't argue with those choices, but it does seem to us that Dwayne missed one of our favorites: What about fighting a few ninjas in the sewers?

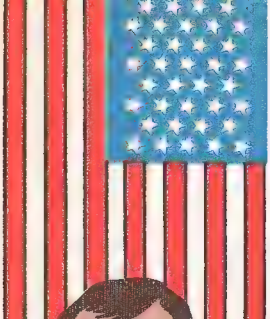
ITEM: On the other hand, let's say you don't feel like going out tonight and just want to curl up with a good book instead. Well, the prestigious **Publisher's Weekly** recommends **Sidney Jacobson**'s latest novel, *Another Time*. Published by St. Martin's Press, *Another Time* is the story of a young congressman trying to cope with labor problems, anti-Semitism, and his own personal troubles in the heart of the Depression. And you guessed it—Sidney Jacobson is the same guy who edits ALF and DAMAGE CONTROL here at the House of Ideas! Take a bow, Sid.

Though, we still can't figure out why Sid looked at us so strangely when we asked why **Top Dog** didn't show up in the book . . .

MARVEL® TOP TEN

It's not easy being a non-mutant in today's mutant-dominated world, but our own **Amazing Spider-Man** continues to hold his own. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN climbed up two notches from last month to number three. Will Spidey ever make it to number one? Stay tuned! The **Punisher** also placed both of his books in the top ten, which is not bad for a guy who's not even a mutant! If anyone can give our mutants a run for their money, it's Spidey and the Punisher! The following is a list of the ten best-selling Marvel titles in the direct sales market, as compiled by our Vice-President/Direct Sales representative, **Carol Kalish**. These are the ten best-selling books for the month of September.

1—**THE UNCANNY X-MEN #255**
2—**WOLVERINE #18**
3—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #326**
4—**EXCALIBUR #16**
5—**X-FACTOR #48**
6—**WHAT IF . . .? #7**
7—**PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL**
8—**PUNISHER #27**
9—**SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #158**
10—**AVENGERS #311**



MARK'S REMARKS

Last month I promised to walk everybody step by step through the process by which I constructed a plot for one of my two monthly assignments. However, halfway through the piece, I realized that running that column this month would really spoil the story I was writing about for anyone who read it when it came out five months from now. So, what I've decided to do is sit on that particular essay for six months so when it's finally published, anyone who's going to read the story discussed therein will already have. Fair enough? So what am I going to do instead? Well, have I got a burning issue (ahem) to talk about this time . . .!

Ever since the Supreme Court ruled last summer that it was now legal to burn the American flag as a form of protest, people have been coming up to me and asking when I'm going to do a story showing Captain America's view on the subject. After all, I've been writing Cap's comic book longer than anybody except Stan Lee so if I don't know Cap's character by now, I should be yanked off the book, right? I've given the issue considerable thought, and the first conclusion I've reached is that at this point in time, I think Cap's opinion of flag-burning would make a better essay than story, though I do reserve the right to change my mind in the future. In the meantime . . .

Writers are routinely required to write characters whose views differ from their own. I, for instance, really enjoy writing villains, despite the fact that I've never attempted so much as a misdemeanor. Writing a character as virtuous as Captain America is a real stretch for a regular fella with a mixed bag of failings and personality flaws like I have. Cap's value system is far more idealistic than mine could ever be. Cap has a reverence for life and a passion for freedom that I wish I could share, but I'm just not like that. But I still like to think I've been doing a creditable job these past five years thinking like Cap enough to bring his exploits to life, so . . . let's dispense with the pussyfootin' and address the issue at hand.

What it boils down to is this: which ranks higher in Cap's mind, the concept of freedom upon which our country was founded—in this case, freedom of speech or self-expression—or the tangible symbol of America itself? Freedom is an abstract thing, an idea. A flag is a material thing, with abstract connotations. For Cap, these connotations are all of America's greatest virtues, virtues which include freedom of speech. But Cap is savvy enough to know that not everyone shares his view of America's ideals. He would even grant others the freedom to let the American flag represent other things than those which it represents to Cap. And if the person disagrees with those things which the American flag represents to him or her, would Cap grant the person the freedom to publicly express that disagreement through the public act of burning the flag?

Conditionally, I'd say yes. And the conditions I believe Cap would impose upon a would-be flag-burner are these. First, that the flag-burning truly be a sincere, heart-felt act, not something done simply for shock effect or even worse, for no point at all. Second, that the physical act of setting a flag on fire be performed responsibly. When I was young and rambunctious, my father told me on numerous occasions that my freedom to swing my fists stopped one inch before another person's face. Sure, I had the right to wave my fists around as an act of self-expression, but the person next to me had the right to live without fear of being injured by my self-expression. In the same light, Cap would prevent a person from burning a flag if that act posed any sort of danger to that person or the people around him. I'm not just talking about the guy who decides to burn a flag in a dynamite factory. I'm also talking about someone in a situation where a flag-burning will incite a riot (whether the riot is in agreement or opposition to the act would make no difference to Cap) or place that person in jeopardy. Self-expression that injures or even threatens injury Captain America would condemn and oppose.

Despite the symbolic nature of his own costume and mission, I believe Cap would rank people as more important than symbols, and what the symbols stand for as more important than the material symbol itself. I believe Cap would respect the individual's right to free speech (and by extension, symbolic protest) granted by the First Amendment to the Constitution. I believe Cap would agree with the statement attributed to Voltaire, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." I also believe Cap would stop a person about to torch a flag long enough to determine what it was the person meant by the symbolic desecration, but once satisfied that there was a point to it, would let him proceed. Afterward, I can see Cap talking to the flag-burner at great length about where that person felt America had let him down, and whether there was anything Cap could do to rectify the situation.

Is there any set of circumstances in which Cap himself would feel the need to burn the flag? Well, this is stretching it, but if someone were on fire, and the only possible way to save his life was by using the flag to snuff out the flames, I don't see Cap hesitating for an instant to save the life at the expense of the flag. On the other hand, Cap would probably not hesitate to rush into a burning building, risking his own life and limb, just to save an American flag inside. (He would never ask or expect anyone else to do the same, however.) The bottom line for Cap is that while people are more important than symbols, symbols serve people, providing them concrete images for abstract ideas. As such, symbols have value to him.

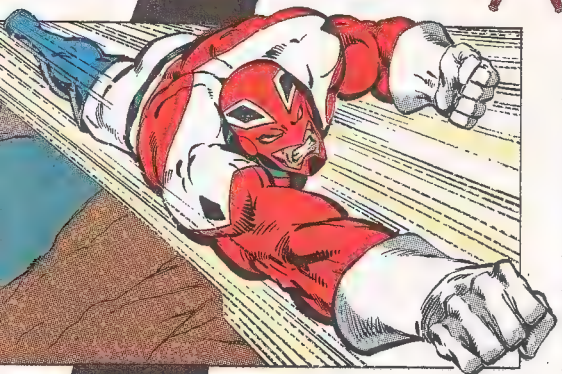
To sum it all up, Captain America, as I understand him, has a deep and abiding love for his country, the symbols of his country, and the ideals that those symbols stand for. But perhaps the foremost of those ideals is freedom, and Cap would not advocate abridging a person's freedom of speech or symbolic activity even if he found the content of that speech or symbolic act personally repugnant. At least that's the way I see it.

MARK

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 4 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 11

WOLVERINE™ AND EXCALIBUR™ SPECIALS



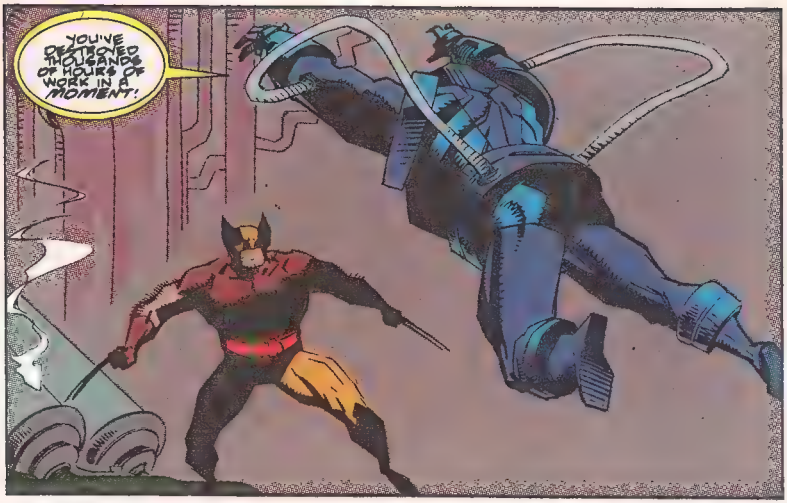
The Savage Land—mysterious, uncharted region where dinosaurs roam. This strange and magical realm has served as the location for some of Marvel's greatest stories (including a few classic yarns featuring the X-Men, both old and new). It's also the setting of the upcoming WOLVERINE SPECIAL, in which the feisty mutant ventures once more into the land forgotten by time.

The action begins in New York, where Wolverine receives a cryptic note at a Broadway theater. The note is supposed to be from Jean Grey, but Wolverine soon learns otherwise. The note is just a trick to lure Wolverine into a trap.

When someone makes an attempt on his life, Wolverine decides to investigate. Wolverine's search takes him deep into the heart of the Savage Land. Wolverine is looking for answers, and he won't leave till he finds them.

As soon as he arrives in the Savage Land, things get off to a bad start when Wolverine is attacked by a dinosaur. From there, it only gets worse, as Wolvie encounters a horde of killer robots, and becomes a god to a cult of primitives. (That Wolverine always was a popular guy.)

Wolverine discovers the source of all the trouble—X-Factor's old foe, Apocalypse! Just as Apocalypse once captured the Angel and converted him into the bionic Archangel, the villain now plans to take the people of the Savage Land and turn



them into an army of cyborgs.

Apocalypse has been kidnaping natives from the Savage Land, and performing his sinister experiments on them. These initial experiments are but a prelude to Apocalypse's final plan—he intends to transform Wolverine into the ultimate cyborg assassin!

WOLVERINE SPECIAL #1 is written by Walter Simonson, whose desire to write the story was motivated by his love of dinosaurs. The penciler for the project is Mike Mignola, and the inker is Bob Wiacek. The 48-page Graphic Album features fully-painted color by Mark Chiarello.

The book is just one of two great specials coming your way next month.

The second is EXCALIBUR SPECIAL #2, written by Chris Claremont, penciled by Art Adams, and inked by Terry Austin and Bob Wiacek. The story is entitled "Royal Wedding," and it features the return of the ever-popular X-Babies.

The X-Babies, as you'll recall, are junior versions of the X-Men created by Mojo. The X-Babies are the stars of a TV series based on the X-Men, which is the highest-rated show in Mojo's universe.

But now the X-Babies are in trouble. They don't want to work for Mojo anymore. In an attempt to escape from Mojo's clutches, the X-Babies flee to Earth.

But Mojo is not about to let his

star attractions get away so easily. Mojo sends after the X-Babies his greatest enforcer, the Agent. Mojo wants to sign the X-Babies to lifetime contracts, and he won't take no for an answer!

When the X-Babies arrive on Earth, they look for the only person that can save them—Kitty Pryde! Kitty and the Excalibur team are attending a royal wedding as uninvited guests. What happens next, to use Chris Claremont's own words, could best be described as "a royal brouhaha." The story climaxes in a big fight at Westminster Cathedral, viewed on nationwide TV.

The EXCALIBUR SPECIAL will deliver the usual brand of mutant mirth and mayhem you've come to expect from this crazy crew. Chris promised that the EXCALIBUR SPECIAL will contain "lots of funny stuff."

Some prominent comics-creators will be putting in cameo appearances in the book. Sharp-eyed readers will notice John Bolton, Art Adams, Mike Lake, and Chris Claremont. You may even spot members of the band Cat's Eye, as well. And don't be surprised to see some actual British Royalty show up!

WOLVERINE SPECIAL #1 and EXCALIBUR SPECIAL #2 will both be out this month. Truly December will be a very special month for mutants!

—Barry Dutter

NAMOR
THE SUB-MARINER

He was once the prince of the underwater civilization of Atlantis, who time and again found himself at odds with the nations of the air-breathing humans living on the surface world. But he himself was the son of an air-breather, and now he finds himself back in his father's nation, sitting on a throne of a very different kind. For now **Prince Namor** is the secret head of one of the world's richest and mightiest business conglomerates. And he once again has the power to change the fate of the world.

This is the story of NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER, a brand new series starring the classic Marvel hero who celebrates his fiftieth anniversary in print in 1989. The new series is written and drawn by **John Byrne**, inked by **Bob Wiacek**, colored by **Glynis Oliver**, and edited by **Terry Kavanagh**. And, as John puts it, "The thrust is **Donald Trump** with wings on his heels."

The new series contains several surprises for longtime fans of the Sub-Mariner. John intends to stay away from Atlantis, the traditional undersea villains, and underwater adventures as long as he can. In fact, in the first issue of the new series, the adult Namor is never once shown underwater! "Well, that wasn't deliberate," John explains, "because it surprised me as much as it surprised anybody. But I think it sets the tone of the new series quite nicely, albeit unconsciously, since it will not be an underwater series. So it's only appropriate that when we see Sub-Mariner in this issue, he is entirely above water. Baby Namor in a flashback is underwater, but that's the only underwater sequence for him in the first issue." Moreover, as John points out, in the flashback to Namor's origin, not only does he depict the Atlanteans with black eyes, as the Sub-Mariner's creator, **Bill Everett**, did back in the 1940s, but he will show the Atlanteans floating in the Atlantis scenes, rather than standing and walking around. After all, they *are* underwater.

Furthermore, unlike his past series, the new one is not titled SUB-MARINER but NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER, with NAMOR in far larger letters in the logo than the rest. "We're doing that for two reasons," John says. "One, it's impossible to make a good-looking logo out of 'Sub-Mariner,' and two, a shorter word, like 'Namor,' will stand out better. Also, perhaps people will be less inclined to mispronounce 'Namor,' although I did when I was a kid: I used to say 'Nam-mor.'" (By the way, "Sub-Mariner" is pronounced with a short "i." In other words, it's not pronounced like "submarine.") But the idea is to have a title that in and of itself diminishes the 'Sub-Mariner' idea, because it's less important in the new series that he's the Sub-Mariner. It's

breathe under water, that's simply a tool, but it's not his most important tool.

One of the reasons for taking the Sub-Mariner in such a different new direction is so that newcomers will [illegible] lot about the Sub-Mariner's lengthy past to appreciate the new stories more fully. One of my major concerns here is so that a new reader can pick this up and not feel that he's missed the last six issues, or the first six years, or whatever.

John Byrne has had the new direction for the Sub-Mariner in mind for quite some time now. Funny he recalls, at I had tho[illegible] five editor **Mark Gruenwald** said he wanted me to do (when John once again began doing the majority of his comics work for Marvel) were SHE-HULK and SUB-MARINER. I ended up doing SHE HULK and WEST COAST AVENGERS now AVENGERS WEST COAST. But in considering Namor back then, I thought that the approach I would like to take would be to play off the fact that this guy has got more money than God.

Then, lo and behold, a year later **Tom DeFalco** and Mark Gruenwald and **Howard Mackie**, and Terry Kavanagh and a bunch of other people sitting around trying to think of what to do with Sub-Mariner came up with the same concept independently. So when they called me up and said "Would you be interested in doing this?" I said "Golly, sure," John recalls, laughing.

The seeds of the idea of Namor as a multimillionaire businessman go back to an early issue of THE FANTASTIC FOUR, in which **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** [illegible] Namor as the head of a movie studio that made a film about the **Fantastic Four**. He'll be doing lots of movie stuff.

As for where Namor got all this money, that's an easy question for John to answer. He knows the location of every (ship) wreck in the world, as he says in the first issue as he shows the new female lead a huge pirate's chest full of gold doubloons.

But why is it that Namor has decided to turn back to the surface world and big business after all these years? Well there are three [illegible] asserts. One is that he's lost his kingdom again. The new series will be interrupting his search for his [illegible] to accomplish what he wants to accomplish: the way to fight the [illegible] king New York, you go out and buy as much of New York as you possibly can.

The third and most significant thing is that Namor meets a marine biologist who presents Namor with a solution to a problem that has plagued him all his life. This man's name is **Caleb Alexander**, who has an adult daughter named **Carrie**. They are a father and daughter team of marine biologists who happen to be puttering around [illegible] Mariner saved his life. This is what directed Caleb into marine biology and his particular interest in Sub-Mariner.

John believes that the Sub-Mariner has been portrayed in highly inconsistent ways over the years, in which Namor sometimes behaves reasonably and other times goes into irrational rages. Caleb, John says, has figured out what it is that has always caused Sub-Mariner to go off on these rages and act in this extremely inconsistent way, and has suggested a cure. So now that Namor is more in control of his emotions and his metabolism, he can take a more rational approach to the world. The problem [illegible] to bring control is [illegible]

This does not mean that Namor has mellowed completely though. He still has the ability to get thoroughly licked off, and he's still an arrogant person. John observes. That goes with being a king.

Yet another reason why Namor keeps the Alexanders around is that he finds himself attracted to Carrie. The Sub-Mariner recruits the Alexanders to be what John calls his eyes and ears on the surface world, while Namor himself runs his business affairs in secret.

But Namor is not motivated to become a big business magnate out of greed. His general approach is ecological, although I don't want to scare people into thinking this is going to be some heavy ecology text, because it isn't, John explains. Namor's concern is that the [illegible] Shore. And a lot of the crap that the surface world creates ends up in the seas, which, while not the place where Namor is going to be spending most of his adventure time

is certainly the place where he feels most comfortable. He doesn't want to see it wrecked, and in the process of trying to clean up the surface world's act, he obviously is going to be making it better for all of us as well."

At first virtually no one will know that the Sub-Mariner is back in the surface world. "As he says in the first issue, the world thinks he's dead, and he's decided not to disabuse them of that misapprehension," John remarks. "Only a handful of heroes knows that he's not dead. So he will not have a secret identity per se. But he will be the mysterious guy operating from behind closed doors. People will know that there is somebody who is really the power behind the throne at Oracle, Incorporated (named after the ship of Namor's father, Antarctic explorer **Captain Leonard McKenzie**). But they don't know who it is."

"He's going to live on the top half dozen floors of the Tipton Apartments, which is an imaginary building on Central Park West."

But surely, as Namor continues to encounter various enemies over the course of the series, he won't be able to keep his existence a secret for long. "Well, that's not actually going to be a problem," John reveals, "because it is my intent that eventually the world will discover that he's not dead, and then he'll start operating publicly. Rather than the fans chalking up all the instances where the world should have figured out (that Namor is still alive, but didn't), they can chalk up all the instances where people have figured it out, and (then see) just how long it will take for all these instances to come together so everybody knows. Because it will happen, maybe not within the first year, but certainly by the end of the first year, I would think. And then I will be getting very much into the Beautiful People, quote-unquote. He'll be on the cover of PEOPLE. He'll be going to parties wearing a tuxedo, things like that."

The first issue will introduce two people whom John calls his "recurring 'villains'—for lack of a better term." They are "a brother and sister team of big business tycoons named **Desmond** and **Phoebe Marrs.** They're the heads of Marrs, Inc. They will be the main business quote-enemies-unquote of Oracle, Inc., and will be the people who are trying to figure out who's behind Oracle, Inc. They are as close to being identical twins as a male and female can be."

"They're not their real names. They have abandoned their pasts, and these are the names they chose for themselves. So they chose 'Marrs,' and then they chose 'Desmond' and 'Phoebe' as the regular names that most resembled 'Deimos' and 'Phobos,'" the names of the sons of the Roman war god, **Mars.** But don't start plowing through old back issues of Marvel series trying to figure out who the Marrs twins could possibly be. "They're brand new characters who have no prior connection to the Marvel Universe," states John.

Issue two pits the Sub-Mariner against the **Griffin** as well as leading him into conflict with Roxxon, the powerful and unscrupulous oil conglomerate. Namor suspects that Roxxon is behind the Griffin's attack since the Griffin was seen at Roxxon's subsidiary, the Brand Corporation, in his first appearance. But in actuality it is the Marrs twins who are behind the Griffin.

Then in issue #4 and #5, John reports, "The thrust of the story is that a giant oil tanker comes into New York Harbor and has a spill, and then the spill gets set on fire. The subplot will probably introduce a new villainess called **Headhunter**, which is a big business term, obviously."

The Sub-Mariner's cousin, **Namorita**, guest stars in the story that appears in issues #6 and #7. "I was reading an article in NEWSWEEK about pollution," John recalls, "and discovered that there is a place where all the untreated raw sewage from New York and New Jersey goes. It's called East 106, and it's a spot 106 miles off the United States coastline. And it is, as it said in NEWSWEEK, the leading contender for the title of the most disgusting place on Earth. And I said to myself, what if some sort of biological mutation occurred in all that stuff? And what if it turned into a kind of gigantic super-**Man-Thing** and decided to go home? It's going to be disgusting, it's going to smell real bad. And it's going to be huge."

In the future John intends to do a storyline in which Namor discovers "that one of the companies that **Tony**

Stark owns is doing something nasty that Stark doesn't know about." So when Namor intervenes, Stark goes to fight him as **Iron Man.**

There will definitely be a reunion of the Sub-Mariner, **Captain America,** and the original **Human Torch,** who were the three leading members of the World War II super hero team known as the **Invaders.** "Mark Gruenwald and I have already started talking about that as an obvious has-to-be-done three way crossover, probably going from NAMOR to CAPTAIN AMERICA to AVENGERS WEST COAST, depending on the sequence in which they're published." The villain will probably be the **Red Skull.** Inasmuch as the original Human Torch killed the Skull's leader, **Adolf Hitler,** "I'm reasonably sure the Red Skull would not be thrilled to know the original Human Torch is back."

The Fantastic Four will probably turn up in NAMOR eventually, and John says he would like to do a story about all of the women whom the Sub-Mariner has loved in the past, including the **Invisible Woman,** and "look for something that might link all the women in his life." John hopes to do stories involving **Doctor Doom** and the **Puppet Master,** whose paths have crossed the Sub-Mariner's in the past. John may also be doing a tie-in to a plot element from one of his early issues of ALPHA FLIGHT.

John has not seen that many of the SUB-MARINER stories done by the character's creator, Bill Everett, back in the 1940s and 1950s, though he has seen the ones that Marvel has reprinted over the years. "I was always impressed by Bill Everett's stuff. One of the first places I saw it was that big page of Sub-Mariner punching the (original) Human Torch in **Steranko's** HISTORY OF THE COMICS. It's very much definitive Golden Age style." But because John first saw the Sub-Mariner in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1, by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, "he's always felt to me like a Lee and Kirby character more than an Everett character. So I'll treat the Everett stuff with the necessary reverence, But I still come at stuff from the direction of Lee and Kirby, as I always have."

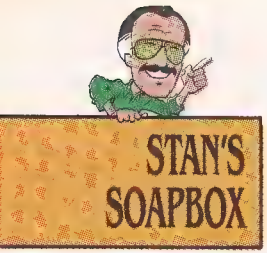
John is looking forward to doing stories setting Namor's super-heroic exploits against the world of high finance. "Exploring those rarefied realms is fascinating, though certainly I'm not going to worry about being a textbook on economics, or anything like that. I don't expect to be reviewed in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. But it's fun to play with people who have what amounts to the real world version of super-powers, which is to have lots and lots and lots and lots of money." And NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER thus promises to be a super hero comic the like of which has never been seen before.

—Peter Sanderson

HEMBECK'S PAGE by Fred Hembeck

IT WAS SWELL OF ROY, WASN'T IT, FELLAS? ARRANGING THIS LITTLE IMPROMPTU INVADERS REUNION AT THE END OF THAT ATLANTIS ATTACKS BUSINESS, I MEAN?
IT CERTAINLY WAS. AND WHO ELSE BUT ROY THOMAS, eh. CAP? THAT MAN HAS A BETTER MEMORY THAN THE BOTH OF US! WHY, WHEN I FOUND YOU IN THAT BLOCK OF ICE BACK IN 1964, I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU, MUCH LESS REMEMBER SHARING EXPLOITS WITH YOU AS MEMBERS OF THE INVADERS DURING WORLD WAR II, BUT AS ROY PROVED DURING THE SEVENTIES, HE CERTAINLY REMEMBERED. IS IT ANY WONDER I WAS DELIGHTED WHEN MARVEL ENLISTED HIM TO REITERATE MY SAGA AS A 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION? AND I HEAR TELL HE'LL BE DOING THE TORCH'S TORY AS WELL?...
COULD BE. ME, I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! THEY TELL ME THAT ANOTHER CHARACTER, USING MY NAME, HELPED FOUND THIS GRAND AND GLORIOUS MARVEL UNIVERSE ALMOST 30 YEARS AGO, BUT IT'S ALL BRAND NEW AND EXCITING TO A LATE ARRIVAL LIKE MYSELF! Ah, IT SURE IS GREAT TO BE ALIVE AGAIN--IF THAT'S NOT AN OXYMORONIC STATEMENT COMING FROM AN ANDROID CODE NAMED "THE HUMAN TORCH"...
PEOPLE TELL ME THAT, FOR Y FOLKS ACTUALLY THOUGHT I W THIS VISION CHARACTER, BUT T NOTION'S FINALLY BEEN DISP ED WE'RE BOTH AVENGERS N SAME AS YOU TWO - AND W ALL HAVE A FELLA BY THE NAME OF--WHAT IS IT?-- JACK BURNS?--TO THANK
GREAT NEPTUNE, YOU HAV BEEN IN SUSPENDED ANIMA FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T Y DON'T YOU WATCH ENTERTAI MENT TONIGHT? DON'T YOU RE Stan's SOAPBOX? WE'RE TH ING FULL LENGTH, BIG BUDG STAR LADEN, MOTION PICTUR EXTRAVAGANZA HERE!! A IT'S IN COLOR, TOO...
HOW TRUE, NAMOR, HOW VERY TRUE. HOW DE JUST STOP AND THINK WH MIGHT HAPPEN IF MY MO IS THE RIP-ROARING SUCC OF THE DECADE I JUST H IT WILL BE?..

JOHN BYRNE. FACT IS, HE'S TAKING ME OUT OF THE AVENGERS AND PUTTING ME INTO MY OWN BRAND NEW BOOK CHRONICLING MY OWN BRAND NEW ADVENTURES. I MUST WARN YOU, THOUGH--IT'S GOING TO BE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT FROM HOW I WAS PORTRAYED IN THE PAST. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M GOING TO BE A BIT MORE... WELL ROUNDED THIS TIME OUT.
I'M GLAD FOR YOU BOTH. THAT BYRNE FELLA KNOWS HOW TO ASSEMBLE US AVENGERS. AS HAPPY AS I AM WITH THE EFFORTS OF MARK GRUENWALD AND KIERON DWYER IN RECORDING MY MONTHLY ADVENTURES, MY MAIN SOURCE OF PRIDE THESE DAYS WE NOT IN THE COMICS BUT UP ON THE SILVER SCREEN -- HAVE YOU HEARD GUYS? THEY'RE MAKING A MOVIE ABOUT ME!!
GEE, CAP, THAT'S GREAT! I REMEMBER GOING TO SEE THAT FIRST SERIAL THEY DID ABOUT YOU! GUESS I'D BETTER START SAVING MY DIMES IF I'M GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT DOZEN SATURDAYS DOWN AT THE BIJOU WATCHING "The Adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA"!
GO EASY ON HIM, SUB-MARINER. I'M SURE HE HASN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY YET TO SEE ANY OF THE FUNNY BOOK FILMS -- THE KEATON FLICK, THE REEVE FILMS -- WHY, I'LL BET HE HASN'T EVEN SEEN Howard The Duck!! IT DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH -- MINE'S SURE TO BE THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL, AND ONE OF THE REASONS I SAY THAT IS BECAUSE OF THE TERRIFIC YOUNG NEWCOMER PLAYING ME, MATT SALINGER! MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF HIS DAD, J.D. SALINGER?...
...SHOULD I HAVE?...
BY THE SPIRITS OF MRS. PAUL'S FISH STICKS, GET THEE TO A LIBRARY, ANDROID! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT J.D. SALINGER PENNED ONE OF THE 20TH CENTURIES GREATEST AMERICAN NOVELS, "The CATCHER IN THE RYE"! (I MYSELF READ THE ATLANTREAN TRANSLATION, "The CATCHER IN THE REEF!")
YOU MEAN, IF THIS MATT SALINGER FELLOW BECOMES INEXORABLY IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC'S CONSCIOUSNESS AS THE STAR SPANGLED SENTINAL OF LIBERTY (i.e., YOU?)...
...AND AS CROWD PLEASING SEQUEL FOLLOWS CROWD PLEASING SEQUEL, DADDY DEAREST'S FAME BECOMES LESS AND LESS A MATTER OF BEING KNOWN AS "J.D. SALINGER, AUTHOR OF 'THE CATCHER IN THE RYE'," BUT RATHER--
YES!
BECOMING BEST KNOWN AS "J.D. SALINGER, FATHER OF CAPTAIN AMERICA" PROVING, ONCE AGAIN, THAT IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE YOUR STATUS IN LIFE!! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!



Hi, Heroes!

You know how a lot of columns start with the writer saying, "In answer to thousands of your requests, I'm now going to tell you—bla bla bla—"! Well, I now find myself in the same boat!

Of course, I can't honestly say that the subject of this column is in answer to thousands of requests, or even hundreds—probably not even a half-dozen! Actually, there's only one guy responsible! Yep, you guessed it. It's that sagacious though sinister editor of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, **Slim-Jim Salicrup** himself! Here's how it happened . . .

He phoned me earlier today to tell me that my next column for Marvel (meaning this one) was due. I said, "Great! I'll write all the news about our upcoming movies and TV shows." His only reply was a cacophonous chortle—and, if you never heard a genuine Salicrup chortle, then you just can't imagine how cacophonous a chortle can be! (Y'know, "chortle" is a strange word. You can use it in everyday speech, you read it many times in books and magazines, and yet—the more you look at it, as I'm doing now, the more improbable it seems. In fact, all of a sudden I get the feeling there's no such word. I mean, "chortle"?!! It suddenly doesn't even look real! But, I fear I digress. Hey, you've got enough to worry about without me laying "chortle" on you, too!)

So, okay. Before I could hang up the phone, Jaunty Jim said, "You can write about all that hopped-up Hollywood stuff any time. But a lot of readers have asked why you've never tackled the subject of 'How to Write Comics'! Some of 'em snidely hint that maybe you're afraid of the competition—you Bullpenners wanna keep the secrets all to yourselves."

Well, that did it! I couldn't believe that anyone would dare impugn our integrity—even if they were right! The challenge has been issued! The gauntlet has been flung! The die has been cast! (Did you ever really try to cast a die? Hey, admit it now—I'll bet you never even *saw* a die! And even if you did see one, you might be able to throw it, or kick it, or hit it, but who'd know how to *cast* it? Maybe we'll save this subject for a No-Prize contest some time later—when we're really desperate!)

And, speaking of desperation, ol' Slim-Jim must have been desperate to ask me to tell you how to write comics—me, who probably writes less comics per year than anyone else in the bullpen! Or, maybe that's the reason. Maybe he figures I'm the only one who's got the time! I told you he was sneaky!

Anyway, without any further ado (because I've already used up my quota of ado for this month), I'll now attempt to explain how to write comics the easiest way, the best way—the MARVEL way!

First of all, let's say we're writing about a typical super hero called **Generic-Man.** In his civilian life, Generic-Man is a humble, overworked dishwasher in a seedy little pizza parlor. But, when justice needs a champion, he tosses off his tomato-stained apron, takes a bite of magic mozzarella and becomes—you guessed it—Generic-Man!

So now we know the character we're working with. Pretend that Eddie Editor just phoned you and said, "Hey, eager new comic book writer, I need a 22-page story for Generic-Man by next week!" What's the first thing you do?

Right! You dream up a plot! For the perfect plot, you need three elements: 1) A sensational villain. 2) A colorful crime in which someone or something is seriously threatened. 3) An unusual twist of some sort so that the reader doesn't feel he's read this type of story a zillion times before. But, besides those three essential elements, there's one additional element that will make your story uniquely Marvel; that's the element of an absorbing, human interest *sub-plot.* Here's an example. . .

Let's say that Generic-Man has to stop the dread, demented scientist, **Dr. Dastardly,** who plans to steal the White House, paint it orange and green and turn it into an auto wash. That's the main plot which propels the story. (And don't try to steal it because I've already copyrighted it. Generic-Man and Dr. Dastardly may become my greatest creations—next to **Irving Forbush** and **Willy Lumpkin**!) But what about the sub-plot? That's the secret ingredient, the magic key to Marvel's greatness! Here's how we do it. . .

Besides Generic-Man having to defeat the demoniacal Dr. Dastardly, we toss in a personal problem for G-M to wrestle with. He's been promised a raise at the pizza parlor if he works overtime tonight. He has to have the extra money because his parakeet needs root canal work. But, in order to capture Dr. D he'll have to leave the pizza parlor, thereby losing his extra pay! Therefore, if G-M works that night, the world's greatest menace goes free, or if he tackles our villain, G-M's poor little parakeet loses his teeth (if parakeets *have* teeth. If they don't make it a pet piranha).

See what I mean? You give your hero a dilemma which has nothing to do with the main plot but is still subtly woven into the overall story. And, if there's anyone I haven't yet confused, stay tuned for lesson two!

Till next ish, then, let me wish thee the happiest of Thanksgivings. And, one thing I know you'll be thankful for is—"aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera!"

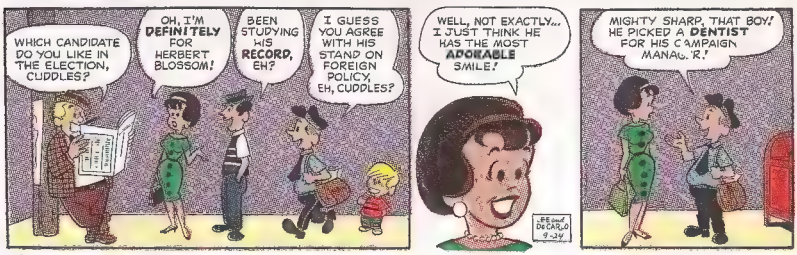
Excelsior!

Stan Lee

WILLIE LUMPKIN

STAN AND DAN'S CLASSIC COMIC STRIP FROM THE FABULOUS FIFTIES!

© 1989 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


WHICH CANDIDATE DO YOU LIKE IN THE ELECTION, CUDDLES?
OH, I'M DEFINITELY FOR HERBERT BLOSSOM!
BEEN STUDYING HIS RECORD, EH?
I GUESS YOU AGREE WITH HIS STAND ON FOREIGN POLICY, EH, CUDDLES?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY... I JUST THINK HE HAS THE MOST ADORABLE SMILE!
MIGHTY SHARP, THAT BOY! HE PICKED A DENTIST FOR HIS CAMPAIGN MANAG'R!

ROBOCOP™

It's a world of the not-too-distant future. A world where police departments are controlled by corporations whose motives aren't always pure. A world where ruthless criminals prowl filthy backstreets. A world where innocent people face unusual threats that sometimes require more than the usual sorts of protection. It's the world of ROBOCOP!

If you're one of the thousands who flocked to theaters to see the ROBOCOP movie a couple of years back, then you already know how a top patrolman named **Murphy** was gunned down by criminals and then rebuilt into a state-of-the-art cyborg policeman called **Robocop.** And you also know how his partner Lewis helped him regain the first bits of his humanity as he tracked down his own murderers!

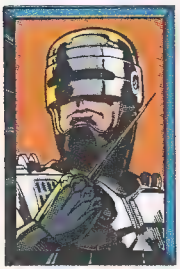
But what happened next? You'll find the answer every month in the all-new ROBOCOP series coming your way this January!

"The comic book series picks up where the movie left off," says ROBOCOP Editor Greg Wright. "It's clearly set in the world the movie's screenwriters created, although we're adding new things." As the series opens, OCP, the organization that created Robocop, is still pursuing their plan to revitalize the city (and raise property values) by erecting the ultra-modern housing complex, Delta City. But a problem arises when a rival firm, NixCo, sets its own sights on the project.

You see, given the area's mile-high crime rate, the company that winds up with the deed to Delta City might very well be the one that can protect it best. And that's why NixCo's out to destroy OCP's greatest asset—Robocop!

The first issue takes Robocop deep into the sports world, as he investigates a lead that NixCo is fixing the

Rare unpublished Robo-Art! The original cover to ROBOCOP #1.



ROBOCOP™ and ©1989 by Orion Pictures Corporation

city's most popular sport, a taser-enhanced, tag-team boxing event called Kombat. But his routine investigation turns out to be anything but routine when Robocop meets the NixCops, cyborgs designed to be even more efficient fighting machines than Robocop himself! And when Robocop enters the ring himself and battles four opponents at once. . .well, we have to keep some secrets, don't we?

Future issues will pit Robocop against the NixCops once again as he learns that not even he can always protect the innocent; in fact, he might not even be able to protect his own partner!

Not all of the threats Robocop will be facing will be products of NixCo, though. After all, there's always a kill-crazy hoverbike gang called the Urban Kurs. And even within OCP itself, there are still people who are a tad miffed over the attention Robocop has been getting, and who plan to do something about it. So if you remember Robocop's battle with the robotic juggernaut ED209 back in the ROBOCOP movie, well, rest assured that there are plenty more ED209s where that one came from!

All in all, the series is packed with wall-to-wall action and plenty of the dark humor and social satire which became the film's trademark. Together, they promise to give the comics series a unique, gritty science-fiction feel.

And when it comes to writing gritty science fiction with a dark humor slant, there's no one better than ROBOCOP scripter **Alan Grant**! For the past few years, Alan's been a frequent scripter for England's popular science-fiction crime series, JUDGE DREDD. "I'd liked Alan's work on THE LAST AMERICAN, which he did for Epic, and on JUDGE DREDD," Greg recalls. "I had asked a few people for proposals for ROBOCOP, and Alan had a lot of new ideas that didn't alter the characters but would still give you something to think about.

"Alan's an absolute pleasure to work with. He's one of the most professional writers I've seen."

"And," he adds with a smile, "he's got a Scottish accent."

The search for the perfect ROBOCOP artist took a little longer. "I didn't know who to get for the art," Greg

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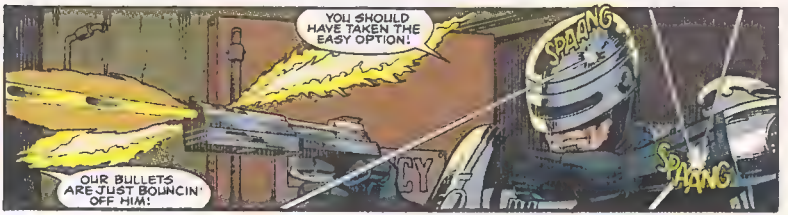


says. "I wanted a distinctive art style—a dirty-looking future look but also a clean-looking one to give the contrast between Delta City and the dirty, nasty world outside."

In the end, it was **Richard Starkings**, an editor at Marvel U.K. (which publishes Marvel Comics in England), who brought penciler **Lee Sullivan** to Greg's attention. "He brought out Lee's DOCTOR WHO artwork and I looked at it. One of the first things I noticed was that all of the characters had different, distinctive faces and bodies, and he was also good at science-fiction hardware and storytelling," Greg recalls. "I called Lee and he sent me some samples; he even sent a Robocop piece he had painted for Marvel U.K. I really liked it." And we bet that the fact that Lee has a British accent didn't hurt either!

Still, despite the lack of any British accent whatsoever, Greg chose S.H.I.E.L.D. inker **Kim DeMulder** to accent Lee's pencils. Greg explains his choice this way: "I've worked with Kim for several years, and we have similar outlooks. I like inking that makes for dramatic-looking art with unusual lighting effects and heavy blacks. Kim proved on S.H.I.E.L.D. that he can put in nifty lighting and dramatic intent.

"When I showed Lee what Kim had done with his work, he was overjoyed—he said, 'That's the way I wish I could ink!"

In fact, Greg is happy to say, "everybody on the ROBOCOP book is real happy with it. It's an ideal situation."

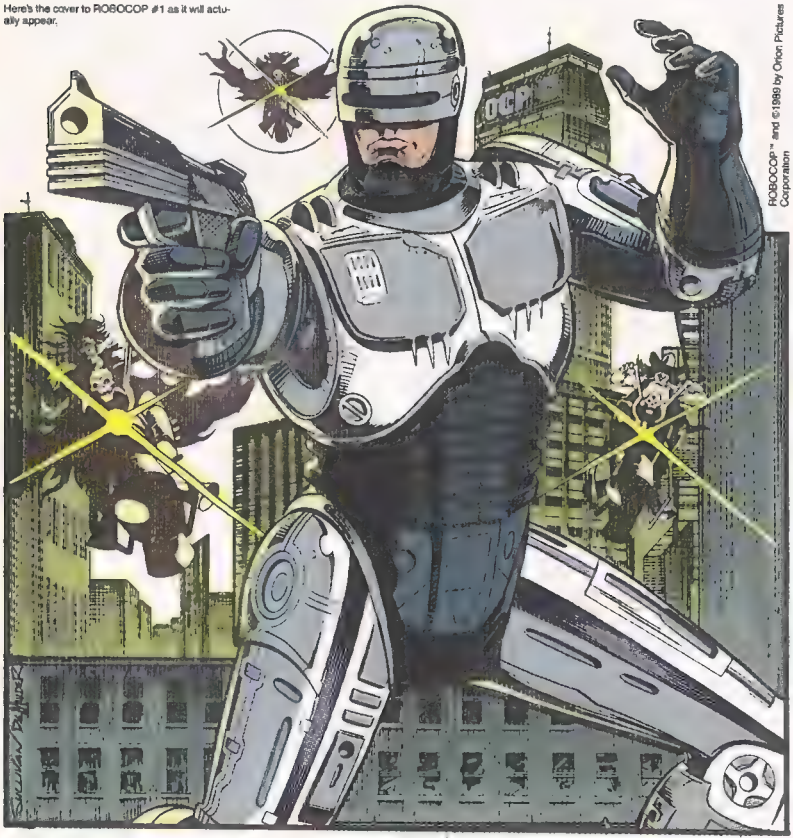
And considering how much the creative team seems to be enjoying ROBOCOP, Greg feels confident that the feeling will carry over to readers as well. "If you like the **Punisher**, **Wolverine**, or any kind of futuristic science fiction, you'll love it," he says. "If you liked the movie, buy the book."

Yet, as we talked about the series, there was a tension in the air. Greg's assistant, **Evan Skolnick**, was feeling pressure from the specter of Greg's old assistant, **Sara Tuchinsky**, who was always ready with some immortal quote to sum up a series in a few admirably silly words. So when I asked Greg to sum up ROBOCOP, Evan seized the opportunity. "Read it," he growled, "or there'll be. . .trouble."

Well, Evan, as quotes go, it may not be "rootin' tootin', lickety-split spy action," but it is a start. And after all, Sara's no Evan Skolnick either.

—Sholly Fisch

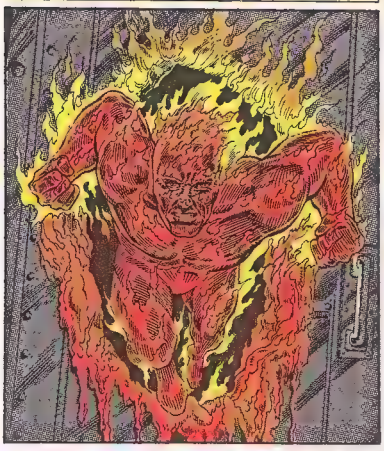
Here's the cover to ROBOCOP #1 as it will actually appear.



MARVEL™ A-Z Part 3

Hold on to your hats, Marvelites! Here comes the third thrilling installment of Marvel A-Z—our annual alphabetical assemblage of power-packed previews of every Marvel mag coming in the months ahead. Last time around, we covered everything from ELSEWHERE PRINCE to the Nth MAN. This month, we start off with an original—the ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH, that is—and finish up with everybody's favorite wall-crawler, your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN.

SPOILER WARNING: If you don't want to know some of the secrets and surprises coming up in your favorite Marvel Comics—don't read this article! You've been warned!



ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH Limited Series

Written by **Roy Thomas**, art by **Rich Buckler**. $1.50.

In the format of the SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER, this four-issue mini-series will look at the early history of one of Marvel's first super heroes, from his creation in 1939 through his heydey in the 1950s, leading up to the mysterious events in his amazing present.

POLICE ACADEMY™ and ©1989 by Warner Brothers Inc

POLICE ACADEMY

Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

If you thought the movies were wacky, wait until you read the comic!

In issue #6 entitled "The Hard Knight's Day," the **Police Academy** crew must deal with the war-like **Von Slug** family from Teensyweensia—the smallest country in the world. Their ancestral castle was sold and moved brick by brick to America, and now they want it back. The back-up story, "Fast Company," centers around a super-fast untested skateboard . . . and **Mahoney** is the first to test it. "Animal Quackers" appears in issue #7, and the group must recover a kidnaped goldfish. "This story has some excellent art," said Assistant Editor **Lisa Trusiani**. "The aquarium keeper actually looks like a fish. It's very amusing."

POWER PACK

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie, penciled by June Brigman.** $1.50.

Writer **Dwayne McDuffie** is promising lots of classic Marvel villains in the new POWER PACK storyline beginning in issue #55. For unknown reasons, most of the existing Marvel villains want to take over the building in which the **Power** family lives. And, as the story progresses, the kids find out bit by bit just what they want. In the course of things, the children are also going to learn to take their roles more seriously, as well as becoming more involved in events in the Marvel Universe.

PUNISHER

Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Bill Reinhold**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** $1.00.

"The **Punisher** will maintain the same realistic edge that fans of the series have come to expect," says writer **Mike Baron**. The Punisher is an ex-cop, whose family was killed in a shootout between warring factions of organized crime. Ever since that dark day the Punisher has dedicated his life to fighting crime his way.

After Acts of Vengeance, the Punisher returns Stateside and goes to the midwest. Here he takes on bikers involved in drug dealing. This story also brings back The **Rev**, a villain not seen since the early issues of THE PUNISHER.

Issue #32 has the Punisher tracking a serial killer. In order to stop this madman the Punisher will have to use all of his expertise as a detective.

"From there I move the Punisher to Texas to take on white collar crooks responsible for the savings and loan crash," Mike Baron says, "The villain of this story is a millionaire with a gun fixation. The Punisher and the millionaire will hunt each other throughout the villain's estate, both armed to the teeth."

From there look for a **Captain America** crossover in the future. The ideals of both characters will be strained to the limit as together they take on government corruption.

PUNISHER MAGAZINE

By various writers and artists. A Marvel black and white magazine. $2.25.

Picking up with issue #6, the PM will continue to reprint many of the **Mike Baron Punisher** stories, along with a few surprises. First on the list is "Garbage" by Baron, **Dave Ross** and **Kevin Nowlan**, and "Wild Rose" by Baron, **Whilce Portacio** and **Scott Williams**—"Ghost of Wall Street" and "Insider Trading." Issue #8 will showcase a crossover of sorts—"The Creep" from PUNISHER #10, and "The Bully" from DAREDEVIL #257 by **Ann Nocenti, John Romita Jr.**, and **Al Williamson**.

"This is the story where the Punisher goes after the aspirin poisoner," explained Assistant Editor **Rob Tokar.** "It's interesting because both the Punisher and **Daredevil** go after the same guy. We also see things from the criminal's point of view."

Other stories to be reprinted are "Second Sight," "Castle Technique," "Sacrifice Play" and "Social Studies." Each issue will feature a painted cover by such artists as **Joe Jusko, Joe Chiodo**, and **James Sherman**, along with new pinups each time.

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL

Written by **Carl Potts** and drawn by **Jim Lee.** $1.00.

Guns will be blazing in various locales for the **Punisher** this year. In one such story, the Punisher goes to paradise for three issues. One of **Microchip's** friends goes to Maui with his family. He comes across a marijuana plantation and the vacation turns bad. The father is killed, the mother is captured, and the child of the parents, a little girl, escapes. Not knowing what to do, she finds a pay phone and calls Microchip. Microchip rushes to the airport and takes the first plane to Maui. The Punisher, who has been out, returns and finds the message on his record-a-call of the conversation between Microchip and the girl. He realizes that Microchip is no match for drug dealers, and the Punisher heads off to Maui also.

"This story will be rich in Hawaiian history and mysticism," said Carl Potts, "One of the pivotal characters will be an old Kahuna woman who the Punisher learns much from."

After this, the Punisher will wander the Pacific for a time before returning to the mainland. In one of his adventures on the high seas, Carl revealed that the Punisher will take on pirates in the Philippines.

PUNISHER Graphic Novel

Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Jorge Zaffino**. 64 page graphic novel format.

The **Punisher** goes to a tropical island to tackle a major druglord that he has been trailing for some time. He was prepared for that. What he didn't count on was the fact that the island is also being taken over in a Grenada-style invasion. So, the Punisher must deal with the druglord, his thugs . . . and the invading army. Features blueline coloring.

QUASAR

Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mike Manley** inked by **Danny Bulanadi.** $1.00.

Mark Gruenwald has a few surprises planned for **Quasar.** Issue #7 guest stars **Spider-Man** as he and **Quasar** join forces to battle **Terminus**—the guy who beat the **Avengers** and the **Fantastic Four** last time around. In issue #8, Quasar must battle an alien creature called **Omnivore. Blue Shield** guest stars. Believe it or not, this is actually a crossover with the first SECRET WARS! The following issue will continue to feature a host of villains and super heroes, including MODAM in issue #9 and **Doctor Minerva** and **Captain Atlas** in issue #10.

"The major difference between Quasar and other heroes is that he's polite," explained Mark. "If he sees a villain he's never met before, he'll call him "Sir." Also, he has a pretty hard job—saving the world. He can tap into the whole electromagnetic spectrum . . . the problem is when he's outside that!

"It's fun, and if you like offbeat Marvel Universe guest stars, you'll love this book."

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

Written by **Gerry Conway** and **Chuck Dixon**, with art by **Gary Kwapisz, Mike Docherty, Ernie Chan**, and others. Black and White Magazine format. $2.25.

It's going to be another brazen, barbaric year for everyone's favorite Cimmerian sword-for-hire, according to principle writer **Chuck Dixon.** Perhaps one of the biggest events of the year is the first meeting of **Conan**'s two recurring supporting females—**Valeria** and **Red Sonja** in issue #170, entitled "Emerald Lust." Conan and Valeria go on a treasure hunt to the Artic Circle, only to find that Red Sonja has unknowingly been hired to kill the barbarian.

Upcoming stories include "Hunter's Moon" in issue #171 by 'NAM writer **Doug Murray** and artists **Dave Hoover** and **Tony DeZuniga**; and "Shattered Innocence" by **Steve Carr** and **Al Williamson.** Issue #179 features "Tomb of Lost Visions" by **Doug Moench** with art by **Mike Docherty** and **Alfredo Alcala**; issue #176 is a special "Three Deaths of Conan" presentation seen through the eyes of three different artists.

SSOC will also continue to feature portfolios and pinups by various artists, spotlighting **Ernie Chan** in issue #172 and **Fred Carrillo** in issue #173.

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SHE-HULK

Written by **Steve Gerber**, penciled by **Bryan Hitch** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

"Basically we'll be doing whatever Steve thinks of," said Assistant Editor **Jim DiGiovanna**, "Then we'll be doing more of Steve's ideas, and then we may do some of those Steve Gerber stories, and then

Honestly though, issue #13 will feature "Village of the Darned," when **She-Hulk** goes to a town where awful things happen, but not one can curse because they live in the Marvel Universe. Basically, they can only say "Darn" or "Shoot," etc. Issue #14 will guest star an original Steve Gerber creation from the past—**Howard the Duck**, with a special cover by **Brian Bolland.**

"There will be some changes around here," continued Jim, "We're eliminating the fourth wall. No more talking to the reader. It's going to be more of a social parody." Jim also hinted that there may be a special She-Hulk 900 number. The question: Should She-Hulk shave her legs?

SHE-HULK Limited Series

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Stan Drake** and **Frank Springer.**

It's love and adventure in "Ceremony" when **She-Hulk** joins forces with an indian tribe to fight off those who want to destroy their land for the mineral rights. And, it just so happens that the guy in charge of the opposition is a sorcerer trained by the very tribe he is now hurting.

"**Jennifer** will confront some deep feelings of loneliness in this book as well," said Assistant Editor **Jim DiGiovanna.** "And it should tie up her ongoing relationship with Wingfoot."

Guest stars include the **Human Torch** and the **Thing**, and the Graphic Album Limited Series features fully-painted pages by **Paul Mounts**.

SHIELD

Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Keith Pollard** and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** $1.50.

Issue #8 starts off with a bang, and the action keeps building from there. The criminal, **Leviathan**, escapes from the Vault . . . and it's the CIA's fault, so **SHIELD** has to lend a hand. In issue #9, the Leviathan story continues as the mastermind of crime uses satanic rituals to control a group of terrorists who are completely at his disposal. And one SHIELD agent may actually end up serving as a sacrifice in their bloody rites.

As for issue #10, editor **Greg Wright** won't tell us much except that it guest stars **Captain America!** Issue #11 will be a special story by **Alan Grant**, and artist **Cam Kennedy.** "Nick decides to take a simple vacation," said Greg, "But it doesn't turn out to be so simple." Issue #12 marks the return of **Bob Harras** as the regular writer, and also marks the beginning of a multi-part saga. Greg promises lots of guest stars including the **Yellow Claw, Hydra**, the **Fantastic Four** and **Iron Man.**

SILVER SURFER

Written by **Jim Starlin**, penciled by **Ron Lim** and inked by **Tom Christopher.** $1.00.

Issue #34 marks another milestone in the life of the **Silver Surfer**—**Jim Starlin**'s debut as the new writer. Jim continues the star-spanning excitement in "Even Demigods must Dream!", when the Surfer finds himself on a desolate, forbidding planet and just wants to get a little rest. But, he soon becomes caught up in a face to face confrontation with a dead man, a human size rat, and a being known as . . . **Death!** But, is it all a dream? Issue #35 signals the return of one of Marvel's baddest boys to the land of the living. And the object of his interest is none other than the Silver Surfer. Issue #36 guest stars a villain we all know and love, the **Impossible Man!** And, in issue #37, "A Destructive Encounter," the Surfer goes after the herald of Death to stop him from completing his evil mission. Whew . . . there's even more, but Starlin just has too many ideas to put down here! Check it out!

SILVER SURFER Graphic Novel

Written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **Keith Pollard** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** Hardcover

In "The Enslavers," the Voyager space probe is discovered by evil aliens who come to Earth and take everyone hostage. Their fate—to be attached like human batteries and drained of their life-energy, so that the aliens themselves can use this energy to live. Only the **Silver Surfer** and one, lone Earth scientist can save them. "This book guest stars everyone in the Marvel Universe, including **Happy Hogan** . . . well almost, said Assistant Editor **Jim DiGiovanna.** "It's a lot of fun."

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

Script by **Gerry Conway**, art by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

An eerie alliance is formed when the **Hobgoblin** breaks **Carrion** out of the Vault. The two villains join forces to destroy their common foe—the **Spectacular Spider-Man.** Along the way, we learn more about the demonic nature of the new Hobgoblin, and we witness Carrion's quest to try to regain his human identity.

Meanwhile, **J. Jonah Jameson** continues his struggle to win back the Daily Bugle from its new owner, **Thomas (Puma) Fireheart.** What can Jonah do? The answer may surprise you!

SPIDER-MAN Graphic Album

Written by **J.M. DeMatteis**, breakdowns by **Mike Zeck** and finishes by **Bob McLeod.** 48 page Graphic Album. $3.95.

While attending the funeral of an old friend, **Peter Parker** is haunted by memories of being buried alive by **Kraven the Hunter.** Peter takes a walk through the cemetery, and is stunned to see the one foe he never thought he'd see again; Kraven himself! But that's impossible! Kraven's dead—isn't he?!! Spidey's search for the truth will lead him to his strangest battle yet, as he struggles to regain Kraven's lost honor, and learns just what it takes to save a man's soul.

SPIDER-MAN Graphic Novel

Written and painted by **Charles Vess.** 64 pages. Hard cover.

Mary Jane receives an inheritance, and she and **Peter** travel to Scotland to claim it. What they find is something mystical haunting the air of scenic Scotland . . . and the presence of **the Hellfire Club!**

SPIDER-MAN Graphic Novel: FEAR ITSELF

Script by **Gerry Conway**, pencils by **Ross Andru**, and inks by **Mike Esposito**.

In this brand-new novel-length adventure, the web-spinner teams with **Silver Sable** against the new, nefarious menace of the **Yakuza** agent called the **White Ninja**! And before it's over, they'll witness the amazing resurrection of **Baron Zemo**! The action travels from New York to Europe in search of startling revelations about the lives of both Zemo and Spider-Man!

THE MARVEL AGE® OF COMICS— 1980 PART FOUR

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THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL ISSUE
CONTAINING MORE SHOCKS AND SURPRISES THAN EVER BEFORE!
CHILD OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS!
THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PHOENIX!

1980 saw the climax of one of the seminal sagas in the history of the Marvel Universe—the birth and death of **Dark Phoenix**! X-MEN had perhaps its most thrilling year ever, as **Kitty Pryde** and **Dazzler** were introduced to a breathless world, and **Mastermind** realized his plans to make **Jean Grey**/**Phoenix** over into the **Black Queen** of the Hellfire Club. But Mastermind's schemes backfired on him, when the corrupted Dark Phoenix took her revenge, first on him, then on the galaxy! When she devoured a star and caused the deaths of millions, the **Shi'ar** demanded she be dealt with—and even though **Charles Xavier** clamped a psychic lid on her powers, that wasn't guarantee enough for the Shi'ar. The **X-Men** battled **Lilandra**'s Imperial Guard for the life of Phoenix, until Phoenix herself realized her powers were returning, and slew herself to save the universe!

In mourning, **Cyclops** left the team, while Kitty joined, and faced a grueling baptism of fire against a **N'Garai** demon. **Wolverine** and **Nightcrawler** teamed with members of **Alpha Flight** to stalk the **Wendigo**, while Nightcrawler saw still more action in the X-MEN ANNUAL, which revealed secrets of his origin and his ladylove, **Amanda Sefton**!

The erstwhile X-Man called the **Angel** was one of **Ben Grimm**'s teammates in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, as they shattered the delusions of the terrible **Toad-King**. 1980 also involved the Thing in two classic trilogies. First he joined **Starhawk** and **Moondragon** on the quest of **Her** to discover if **Adam Warlock** (previously known as **Him**) was really dead (and he was). The **Stingray**, **Triton** and the **Scarlet Witch** aided Ben's battle with **Roxxon**, the **Serpent Squad**, and the forces of the Serpent Crown! The Thing's other playmates that year were the **Human Torch**, helping against Manhattan fires; the **Impossible Man**, searching for the **Impossible Woman**; **Hyperion**, accompanying **Thundra** home to her dimension; the **Guardians of the Galaxy**, averting disasters in the timestream; the **Yancy Street Gang**, helping to defeat **Livewire** and **Shellshock**; and finally in the MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL, the **Hulk**, who battled with Ben against the **Stranger** and **Pluto**!

Now for most heroes that would be enough—but of course, the Thing earned still more combat pay in FANTASTIC FOUR! And for that matter, once the Torch started the year by using **Skrull** science to revive his teammates from the brink of death, the **FF** entertained nearly as many guest stars as TWO-IN-ONE. **Spider-Man** pitched in against the **Frightful Four**, when they recruited the old Spider-foe, **Electro**. **Sub-Mariner** swam in to help defeat **Cap'n Barracuda**, and **Thor** appeared when the FF encountered **Korgon**, the blind God of Fire. And Dazzler guested when **H.E.R.B.I.E.** was possessed by **Doctor Sun**, and self-destructed rather than betray the FF. **Franklin Richards** was also possessed—by **Nick Scratch**, leader of **Salem's Seven**! And **Blastaar**, the super-evolved **Randolph James**, and the mystery of the Darkfield Illumination completed the year, while the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL featured the rebirth of **Dr. Doom**, and the teaming of Reed and **Captain Marvel** against the **Skrulls**!

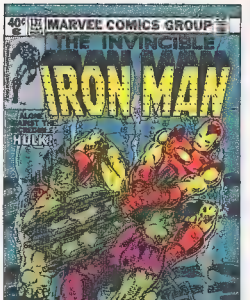
Another title glittering with guest-stars was PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. **Morbius** found a cure for his vampiric condition in these pages, **Giant-Man** helped take down **Meteor Man**, the Human Torch rang Pete into the FF's Frightful Four bout, and the **White Tiger** appeared to stave off the **Smuggler**. Old favorites like the **Vulture** and the **Cobra** popped up to play, while new nasties included the **Schizoid Man**, the poisonous **Belladonna**, the new **Prowler**, and in the PETER

PARKER ANNUAL, the coming of **Rapier**. Most disturbing for Spidey, though, was his temporary infection with **Curt Connors'** lizard-virus, transforming him into a **Spider-Lizard**! Luckily, he had an expanded supporting cast to cheer him up—grad school cronies **Steve Hopkins, Philip Chang,** and **Marcy Kane,** acrimonious fashion designer **Roderick Kingsley,** and university secretary **Debra Whitman**.

The supporting cast was one of the special delights of POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, as the friends of both heroes played interweaving roles in their adventures. The **Heroes for Hire** witnessed tragedy in the death of **Thunderbolt,** but emerged victorious against **Man-Mountain Marko** and the **Maggia,** and the twin threat of **Luck** and **Death.** Equally heroic were **El Aguila,** joining the **Power/Fist** team on a mission in Canada, and the **Daughters of the Dragon,** who battled bravely against **Constrictor** and **Sabretooth**.

SPIDER-WOMAN continued her career as a bounty hunter with computer whiz **Scotty McDowell**. Together they took down the **Killer Clown,** the **Gamesman,** the **Grinder,** and the **Enforcer. Lindsay McCabe** helped out **Jessica,** but that good influence was countered by newspaper publisher **Rupert Dockery,** who engineered menaces just to generate good headlines! Spider-Man sought out **Spider-Woman** when she'd been framed as a criminal, but they reached a mutual understanding. Then Scotty was transformed by **Dr. Malus** into the **Hornet,** who nearly killed the woman he secretly cared for so deeply! Tussles with the **Werewolf By Night** and anachronistic villain, **Turner D. Century,** rounded out Spider-Woman's exploits in the comics, though it should be noted that 1980 brought both the Thing and Spider-Woman into solo adventures on Saturday morning TV!

We covered the **Hulk's** regular book a couple months back, but ol' Green-Skin got around, appearing also in IRON MAN, DAREDEVIL, and his own



magazine, THE HULK! His magazine exploits took the Hulk into middle America and nuclear peril, into the Myth Realm and up against the amphibian creatures of Hydropolis. Most controversial was a scene in which **Bruce Banner** became the Hulk to avoid being sexually assaulted at the YMCA! Back-up features like **Moon Knight** and **Dominic Fortune** made THE HULK! a special package.

You've seen Banner's mind in the Hulk's body, but IRON MAN presented the Hulk's mind in Banner's body! Shell-Head defeated the Hulk, but at what cost? Ant-Man saved Tony's life by infiltrating his frozen armor before he suffocated! Co-plotters **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton** also lined up the **Digital Devil,** the **Titanium Man,** the **Endotherm, Spymaster,** the **Dreadnaughts,** and **Force** for Iron Man's gauntlet. While **Justin Hammer** machinated behind the scenes, **Bethany Cabe** brightened Tony's life—and deduced his secret identity to boot!

DAREDEVIL's identity was also uncovered, by Bugle reporter **Ben Urich**! But Ben kept **Matt's** secret while Matt struggled to save the city from the Hulk! Hospitalized, DD faced an even sterner battle against his inner demons. **Dr. Octopus,** the **Gladiator,** and the **Mauler** added to the action, and the **Black Widow** left Matt's life; the **Roger MacKenzie/Frank Miller** team showed DD no pity!

Next month we'll wrap up 1980 with trips to Tunnelworld, Duckworld, and the Dark Dimension! Be here!

—*Brian Nelson*

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

There are three things that are certain in life — death, taxes, and this little column telling you what great Marvel back issues are likely to run you at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #19. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition

	CONDITION Good	Fine	Mint
■ **DAREDEVIL**			
162	.35	1.00	2.00
163-164 (**Hulk**; origin)	1.35	4.00	8.00
165-167	1.00	3.00	6.00
■ **FANTASTIC FOUR**			
214-216, 218, 220			
221 (**Byrne**)	.25	.80	1.60
217 (**Dazzler**)	.45	1.30	2.60
219, 222-225		.60	1.25
ANNUAL 15	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **THE HULK!** (magazine)			
19-24		.60	1.20
■ **IRON MAN**			
130-141	.25	.75	1.50
■ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE**			
59-70, **ANNUAL** 5		.40	.80
■ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**			
38-49	.35	1.00	2.00
ANNUAL 2	.25	.75	1.50
■ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST**			
61-66		.40	.80
■ **SPIDER-WOMAN**			
22-33		.60	1.25
● **X-MEN**			
129 (intro **Kitty Pryde**)	2.50	7.50	15.00
130 (intro **Dazzler**)	2.30	7.00	14.00
131-135	1.70	5.00	10.00
136, 138	1.45	4.25	8.50
137 (Giant; death of **Phoenix**)	1.85	5.50	11.00
139 (**Kitty** joins)	2.15	6.50	13.00
140 (**Alpha Flight**)	2.40	7.50	17.00
ANNUAL 4	1.00	3.00	6.00

Attention correspondents:
All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Send your letters to:
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

This month's funky fresh letter column title is short, sweet, and to the point, and it comes to us straight from our homeboy, Robert Socha of Clairton, PA. Thanks, Robert!

So anyhow, before we, like, check out what our posse's got to say this month, we just want to take a sec to remind everybody out there that we still need a newer and deffer title for this column each and every issue, all through the year. So do the right thing: Think 'em up, write 'em down, and send 'em in! If we use one of your ideas, we'll even thank you right here in this space. And ain't nothin' more chillin' than that. Bust it.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I thought I would write you about a couple of questions:

First, when is the best time to renew my subscription? Will I be notified or am I on my own?

Second, if I subscribe to a new comic (such as QUASAR) and it is canceled, will I be refunded for the rest of the issues?

Third, how can I go about getting the annuals for the comics I get? I do not have access to a store and hope I can work something out with Marvel.

Fourth, what is the current subscription rate for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for one year?

Hope I hear from you, and thanks for reading this letter.

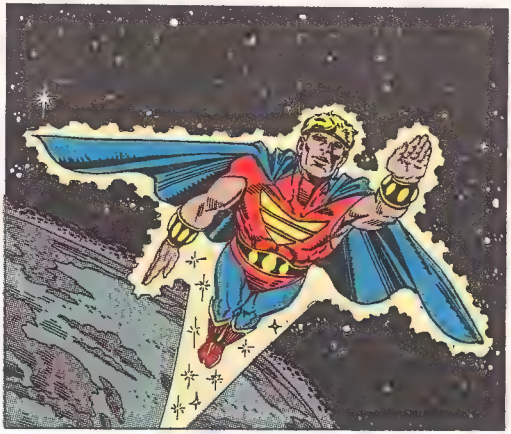
Mike Cade
#40097
P.O. Box 2
Lansing, KS 66043

Lotsa questions there, Mike. And to tell you the truth, given how rarely we get the chance to fill people in on the inner workings of our handy subscription service, we're kinda glad you asked them. Taking your questions more or less in order:

Yup, you sure will be notified three months before your subscription is about to expire. That way, you can be sure to renew it without missing a single issue. And just in case you're the nervous type, you can find out how many issues you have left at any given time by simply checking the address label that comes on every issue that's sent to you; the code on top of the label shows the name of the series, your account number, and the first and last issues in your subscription.

If a series you subscribe to is canceled, don't fret—you'll get full credit for any unused issues. You get to decide whether you want to use that credit to get a refund or extend a different subscription. And if you choose the latter, you'll even get two bonus issues absolutely free! How's *that* for a no-lose proposition?

Oh, and to get a year's worth of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE delivered direct to your door every four weeks or thereabouts, you can send $9.00 to "Subscription Dept., Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc." at good old 387 Park Avenue South. Do *not* address your envelope to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE; we don't take care of subscriptions ourselves, and it'll



only take that much longer if we have to forward your order over to the folks who do.

About the only thing you don't get with a Marvel subscription is (as you seem to have figured out already) an annual. We're sorry, but we just don't have the facilities to sell annuals by mail order. However, if you look through the ads in many of our comics, You'll probably find advertisements for independent subscription services which will be glad to help you get a hold of all the annuals you want. Tell 'em Dan Quayle sent you. It may not help much, but it'll sure confuse them!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

The other day, a thought struck me. The only mutants seen in the Marvel Universe are those with powers that are helpful to themselves or others, or that are considered "neat." Why isn't there a mutant who can only amplify wounds on his or her own body? And how about the person whose sole ability is making colored spots on walls? Where are these harmful and unwanted powers? Aren't there poor mutants out there trying to control or better powers such as these? Marvel has been realistic in other aspects, so you should be realistic in this one too.

Judd Baker
7088 Weller Dr.
Rockford, MI 49341

Um, y'know, Judd, we don't want to dwell on the point, but if you think projecting colored spots on walls is "realistic," well . . .

No, no, we know what you mean. And we think it's probably a safe bet that there are people in the Marvel Universe with downright useless mutant powers. But would you really want to read THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING NINE FINGERED CAPTAIN TED every month?

Of course, that's not to say that we'll *never* see any of these—ahem—less functional super powers. Remember, everything's relative. One issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN featured a character with the powers of a rabbit! And the late, lamented Cypher had the mutant ability to instantly learn any language, but when he first joined the New Mutants, he immediately came down with a hefty inferiority complex because his powers were less useful in a fight than his teammates' were.

So let's not get too judgmental. Hey, you never know when the ability to amplify your wounds will come in handy . . .

Look—there's that snappy yellow background again! It's no surprise, of course; that's why they call us Mellow Yellow (quite rightly, no less). And you know what that sunshiny color means: it's time for our lilting LETTER OF THE MONTH! If you've been keeping track, then you already know how we dig through our king-size sacks of mail every month and yank out a letter that we think will be of particular interest to Marveldom at large. And you probably know that we print the lucky missive in a place of honor as befits its position. But didja know that the capitol of Bulgaria is Sofia?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have a comment on "death" in the Marvel Universe. I have heard of a lot of super heroes and super villains biting the big one, but in most cases, they come back as strong as ever. If the hero or villain does actually "die," you have some celestial being bring them back to life.

In my opinion, "death" should be a little more serious. Make the readers sweat a little. Now, if one of my favorites "dies," I know that he/she will be back sooner or later (usually sooner).

Don't let this letter make you think that I don't like comics. Whether you take my advice or not doesn't matter; I'll always like comics.

Chip Fitzenrider
Rt #1, Box 203
Bryan, OH 43506

Not to worry, Chip; no offense taken. But we do think you've oversimplified things a bit. It's true that many of our characters come back from an apparent "certain death." But let's not forget about those who haven't, such as Captain Mar-Vell, Kraven the Hunter, the dozens of villains Scourge killed, and the guy we were talking about a couple of

letters ago, Cypher. And then, there are those deaths that have taken on more historic significance, like Captain America's old partner, Bucky, or Spider-Man's Uncle Ben. Lots of characters stay dead. After all, why do you suppose THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE's Book of the Dead and Inactive takes up two full volumes?

We agree that death is a weighty issue. And while it may not always be permanent in the Marvel Universe, it often is. But one way or another, we do try to make it clear that death always takes a toll. Okay?

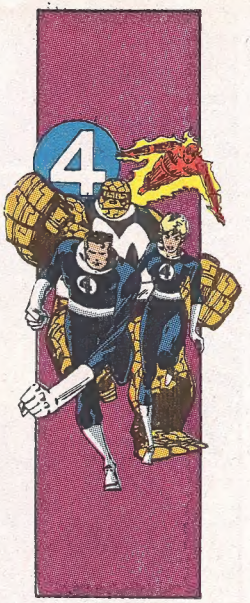
Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have been an avid collector of Marvel Comics for two years. I read the letter columns, but there is something that has always puzzled me. At the end of some letters, people will write something that is absolutely ridiculous and then write, "Make Mine Marvel!" I think that I have figured out this phrase; by saying "until . . ." the ridiculous thing that will never happen, that person's favorite comics company will always be Marvel. I would also like to know where and when this phrase first started.

So until **Spider-Man** gets the proportionate strength of a spider . . . No, no, that's not right. So until **Hawkeye** becomes a really good archer . . . AARGH! Just Make Mine Marvel!

Andrew Beck
56939 Pearl Ann Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

That's okay, Andrew. Your heart was in the right place. But you're absolutely right about why people put such odd sign-offs at the ends of their letters! By setting a condition so ridiculous that it'll never happen, our correspondents are telling us that they'll be Making Theirs Marvel forevermore. And besides, it's kinda fun.



The practice has been going strong at Marvel ever since the 1960s, the same halcyon era that gave us "Excelsior," the Merry Marvel Marching Society, and everyone's favorite mascot, Irving Forbush. And how long will the furshlugginer thing continue? Till Wolverine visits Professor X's barber, natch!

Dear Marvelmaniacs,

Marvel Correspondents is a great idea! I got a wonderful pen pal from Virginia named **Alan Pendleton.** We have been writing to each other for about a year now, and hopefully, we will be writing to each other for many years to come.

Will Mason
130 Triple Tree Dr.
Carrollton, GA 30117

We hope so, too, Will! Glad we could help you guys get together. Because when you get down to it, that's what our Marvel Correspondents column is all about: Bringing people together—old and young, rich and poor, bread and butter, Abercrombie and Fitch. We just hope that everyone else out there takes the hint from your letter and drops a line to one or two of the friendly folks listed in this very issue.

In fact, Will, we'd bet that people are so revved up by reading what you had to say that they can't wait to find a pen pal of their very own. So without any further ado, here come this month's MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS!

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS
If you would like to be listed in this space yourself, send your name address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to Marvel Correspondents at the address high atop this letter column. Aw, g'wan—it's easy!

Jason E. Johnston
79 Presidential Dr., Apt. #5
Quincy, MA 02169
Age: 15
Favorites: AVENGERS, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS

Kieron McGibney
34 Glenn Ave.
Ingersoll, Ontario
CANADA N5C 2C8
Age: 16
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN, EXCALIBUR

Adam Aronson
5837 Kingsfield
W. Bloomfield, MI 48033
Age: 16
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN, X-FACTOR

Luc Richardson Joseph
1195 NW 116 Terrace
Miami, FL 33167
Age: 17
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, All NEW UNIVERSE titles

J.J. Ryan
301 Waldon Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48057
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

Matthew Ellard
9 Queens Gardens
Bilston, West Midlands WV14 6PZ
ENGLAND
Age: 15
Favorites: EXCALIBUR, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, WOLVERINE

Ghulan Mirza
6 Rue Jean-Jaure's
59410 Anzin FRANCE
Age: 22
Favorites: X-MEN, SPIDER-MAN, CONAN

Jeremy Reynolds
R.R. 2, Box 115
Fountaintown, IN 46130
Age: 11
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, NEW MUTANTS, X-MEN

Matt Hammill
446 Shady Lane
Moorestown, NJ 08057
Age: 13
Favorites: X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, HULK

Mike Gibson
670 N 6th St. #215
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Age: 19
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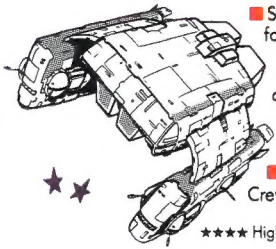

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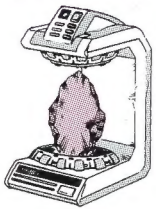

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